THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

[10] あやつり屋敷

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二・恐怖マンガCOLLECTION 10 あやつり屋敷

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朝日ソノラマ

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[10] あやつり屋敷

アイスクリームパス
仲間の家
煙草会
中古レコード
睡魔の部屋
贈る人
あやつり屋敷

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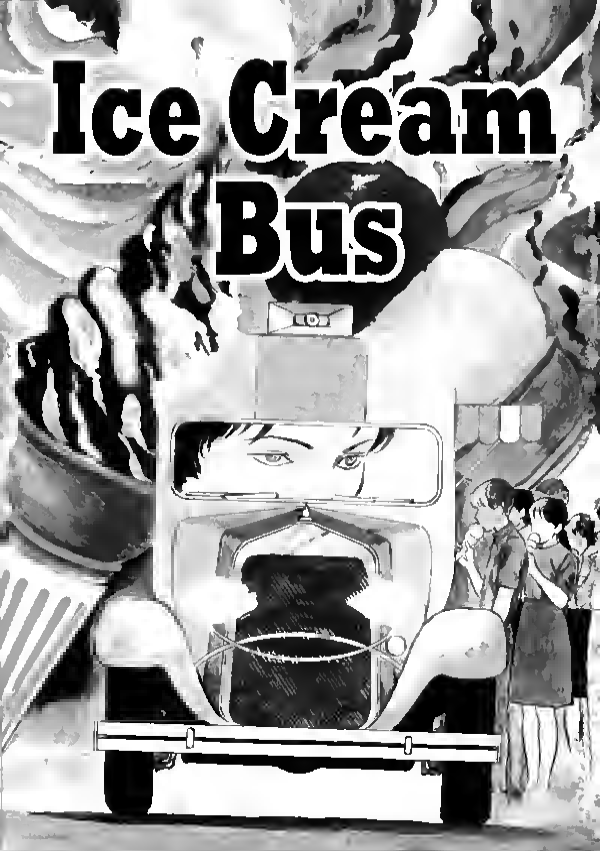
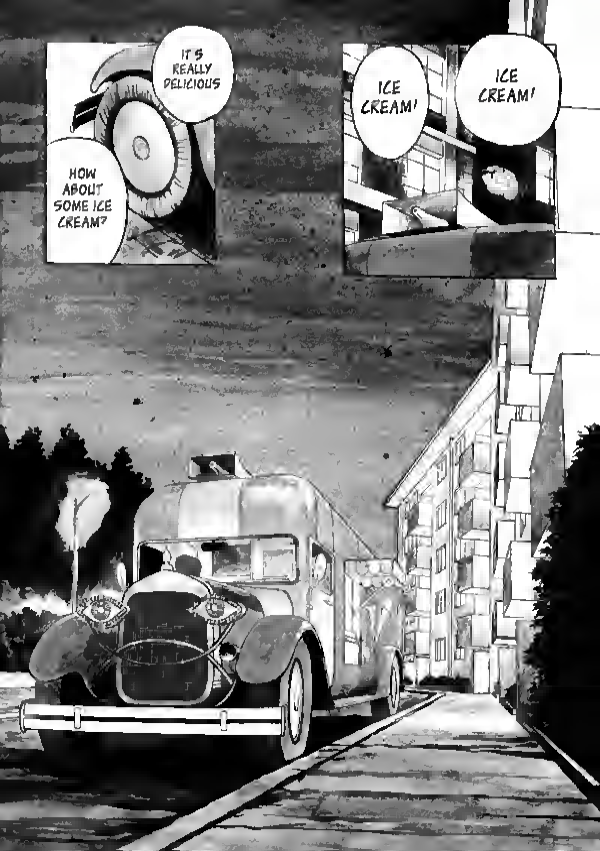
アイスクリームバス

Ice Cream Bus




IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS
HOW ABOUT SOME ICE CREAM?
ICE CREAM!
ICE CREAM!

KYAA !!
IT'S HERE !
THE ICE CREAM BUS IS HERE
KYAA!
PAPA IT'S THE ICE CREAM BUS
LET'S GO PAPA!

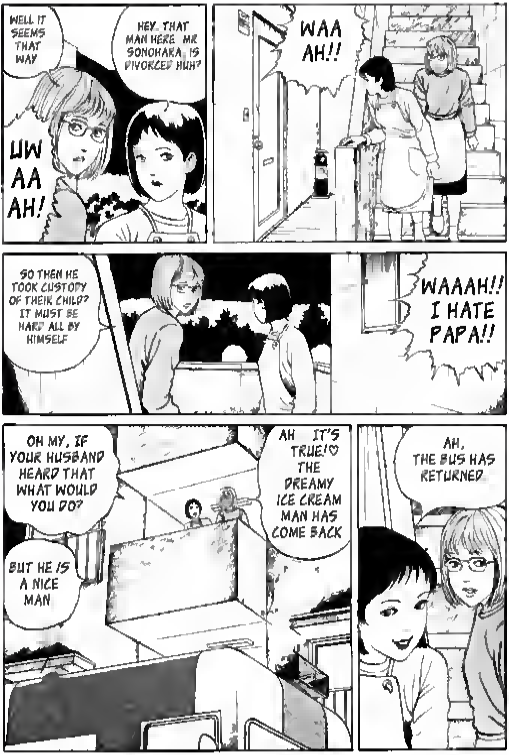
YOUR VANILLA,
IT'S ALRIGHT HERE'S YOUR CHOCO-LATE,
AND STRAW-BERRY FOR YOU LITTLE MISS
I WANT VANILLA!
I WANT CHOCO-LATE!
STRAW-BERRY FOR ME!
THAT'S RIGHT TAKE TURNS
ALL AT ONCE LIKE THAT WILL BOTHER THE ICE CREAM MAN
BUT MAMA!
PAPA BUY ME SOME ICE CREAM TOO!
ABSO-LUTELY NOT! IN THE WINTER? IT'LL UPSET YOUR STOMACH

MISTER... WHERE ARE WE GOING TODAY?
NOW THEN.. GET IN LINE.
TAKE CARE DINNER WILL BE READY WHEN YOU RETURN
THAT'S RIGHT. I WONDER WHERE WE'LL GO?
IT SEEMS HE STARTED COMING AROUND HERE ABOUT A MONTH AGO
WHILE THEY EAT ICE CREAM, THEY GO ONCE AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND THEN RETURN BACK. IT'S A FREE SERVICE FOR THE KIDS
THE KIDS LOOK FORWARD TO THE ICE CREAM BUS COMING BY ON SATURDAY NIGHTS
OH, SONOHARA-SAN, YOU JUST MOVED HERE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
THESE KIDS ON THE BUS... WHERE TO THEY GO FROM HERE?

HEY MISTER! HURRY UP. LET'S GO!
FAFA I WANNA RIDE THE BUS TOO!
GACK
VROOOM!

THE ICE CREAM BUS PROBABLY COMES HERE EVERY WEEK THEN
COME TO THINK OF IT FROM THE TIME WE ENTERED THIS APARTMENT I THOUGHT THERE WAS A SWEET SMELL.
TOMOKI, YOUR MISO SOUP IS GETTING COLD. HURRY UP AND EAT!
EATING ICE CREAM WHILE IT'S COLD OUT... SEEMS LIKE ONLY RECENTLY YOU HAD AN UPSET STOMACH FROM EATING LIKE THAT.
UNTIL IT GETS WARMER YOU SHOULDN'T EAT IT.
WHAT'S THIS? ARE YOU STILL SULKING?
BUT I WANNA EAT ICE CREAM!

WHAT PAPA MAKES IS MUCH MORE DELICIOUS
BUT MAMA'S COOKING IS NOT VERY GOOD
BUT THE FOOD PAPA MAKES TASTE BAD
LOOK, HURRY AND COME EAT
ICE CREAM IS BETTER!!
IT'S NOT YUMMY!
ISN'T IT YUMMY?
SEE LOOK AT THIS AHH SO GOOD
MAMA'S PLACE IS BETTER!
WAAHH MAMA!!
WAA AH!!!
CUT THAT WHINING OUT!
TOMOKI!!


WELL IT SEEMS THAT WAY
HEY, THAT MAN HERE MR SONOHARA IS DIVORCED HUH?
UWAAAH!
WAAAH!!
SO THEN HE TOOK CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILD? IT MUST BE HARD ALL BY HIMSELF
WAAAH!! I HATE PAPA!!
OH MY, IF YOUR HUSBAND HEARD THAT WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
BUT HE IS A NICE MAN
AH IT'S TRUE!♡ THE DREAMY ICE CREAM MAN HAS COME BACK
AH, THE BUS HAS RETURNED

PAPA, LOOK AT HOW HIGH IT IS
CLACK
TOMOKI
THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY YOUR MOTHER CALLED ME ON THE PHONE
SHE SAID IT WAS OKAY FOR YOU TO GO TO HER PLACE
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? DO YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH MAMA?
ICE CREAM!
ICE CREAM!
AH! THE ICE CREAM BUS IS HERE!

EH? REALLY?
WANT TO GET SOME ICE CREAM?
OK TOSHIKI
THAT'S RIGHT. TODAY IS SATURDAY.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME ICE CREAM?
THIS IS REALLY GOOD
CHOCO-LATE ICE CREAM
TOMOKI, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'LL HAVE YOGURT
ORANGE SHERBERT FOR ME
I'LL HAVE A STRAWBERRY DOUBLE
CHOCO-LATE ICE CREAM PLEASE
OK

AH, SURE THING
PAPA, IS IT REALLY OKAY IF I GET ON?
WOO HOO!
NOW LINE UP, LINE UP
BUT WHEN YOU RETURN YOU HAVE TO EAT THE FOOD I MAKE PROPERLY
OK!
VROOOM
ICE CREAM
SHUT!

WE ALL RACED TO LICK IT UP
ON THE BUS THERE WAS A MOUNTAIN OF STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM AND EVERYBODY WAS LICKING IT.
PAPA, THE ICE CREAM BUS IS AMAZING!
I ATE THAT ALL UP TOO
REALLY? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM I BOUGHT?
AND LOOK, MY TONGUE IS ALL RED!
BUT IT'S AWFULLY GENEROUS OF THAT ICE CREAM MAN TO OFFER THAT SERVICE
WHAT? YOU PROMISED TO EAT...
I DON'T WANT TO EAT NOW
BECAUSE I'M STUFFED
IT'S TOTALLY FINE
THAT'S RIDICULOUS YOU'RE STOMACH IS GONNA HURT

KYA KYA!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I PLAYED WITH TOMOKI
WORK ENDED EARLY TODAY
KYA KYA!
BAM
OOF!
SO NASTY
SHE GOT SNOT ALL OVER ME
AH!

IT'S THE KIDS FROM THE APARTMENT
Kyaa
FRIENDS ?
Kyaa
THEY MUST'VE BECOME BETTER FRIENDS ON THE BUS
HUH?
I'M HOME
THE ICE CREAM BUS DOESN'T COME TO MOM'S PLACE
I DON'T WANT TO ANYMORE
TOMOKI DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY YOU WANT TO GO TO YOUR MOM'S?

PAPA, I'LL BE BACK!
ICE CREAM
ICE CREAM
AH DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
EATING AS MUCH ICE CREAM AS THEY WANT REALLY
I'D LIKE TO TRY RIDING THE BUS WITH THE KIDS TONIGHT
I M SORRY ADULTS CAN T RIDE THE BUS
IS THAT SO?

SLURP
SHUT
VROOM
ICE CRE

DON'T SAY NO EVERY WEEK WHEN YOU COME BACK FROM RIDING THAT BUS, YOUR BODY IS ALL STICKY
YA HAHA HA!
COME ON TOMOKI! WAIT! GET IN THE BATH
NO!
NO! FROM NOW ON I'LL ALWAYS RIDE THE BUS!
KEEP ACTING LIKE THIS AND YOU WON'T RIDE THE BUS NEXT TIME
IF YOU DON'T LET ME RIDE THE BUS THEN I'LL GO TO MAMA'S

Stick
AND HE LEFT IT ALL A MESS
HE FINALLY FELL ASLEEP? GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
JUST ONCE IF HE COULD DO AS I SAY
MUST BE FROM HIM TOUCHING EVERYTHING WITH HIS STICKY HANDS
RECENTLY THE ROOM IS ALL STICKY
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS?
IT'S SO STICKY
UWAA

IT'S ALREADY FULLY SPRING.
KYA!
Lick Lick
KYA!
IT'S SWEET RIGHT?
SWEET!
KYA HAH!
KYA!
Lick

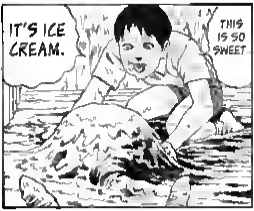
WHAT THE?
KA
I'M HOME
TOMOKI? ARE YOUR FRIENDS HERE?
IT'S AWFULLY QUIET THEN

WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS THIS ?
HEY TOMOKI

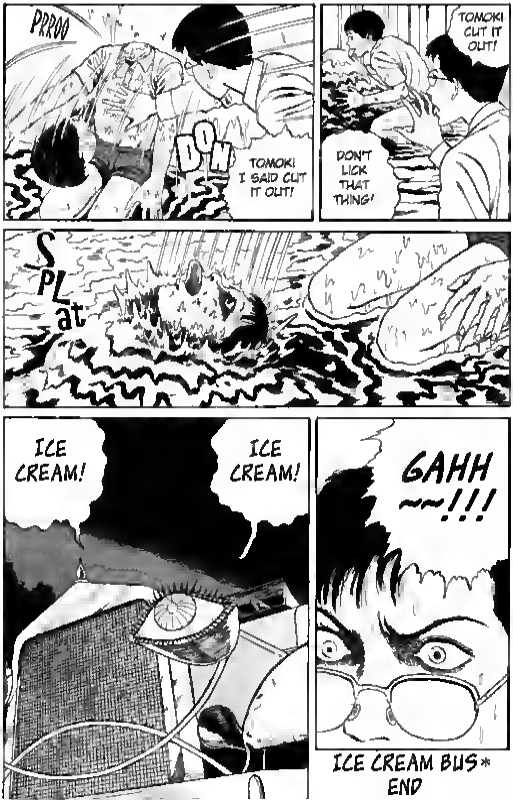
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

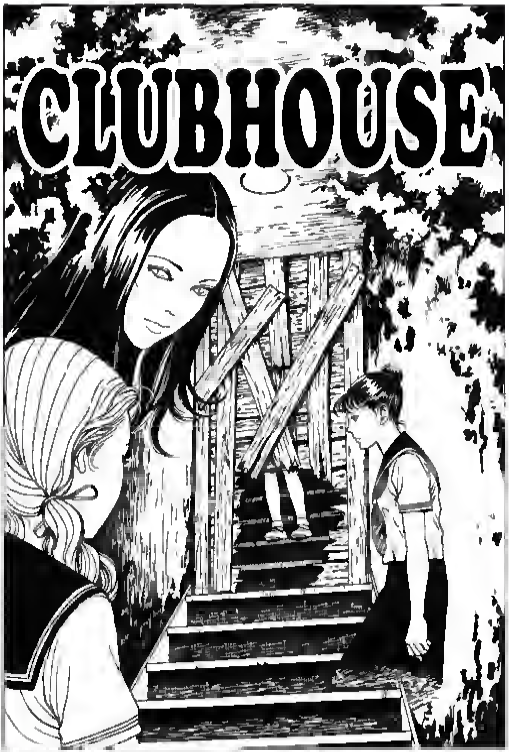
EVERYONE MELTED
MY FRIENDS CAME OVER TO PLAY BUT

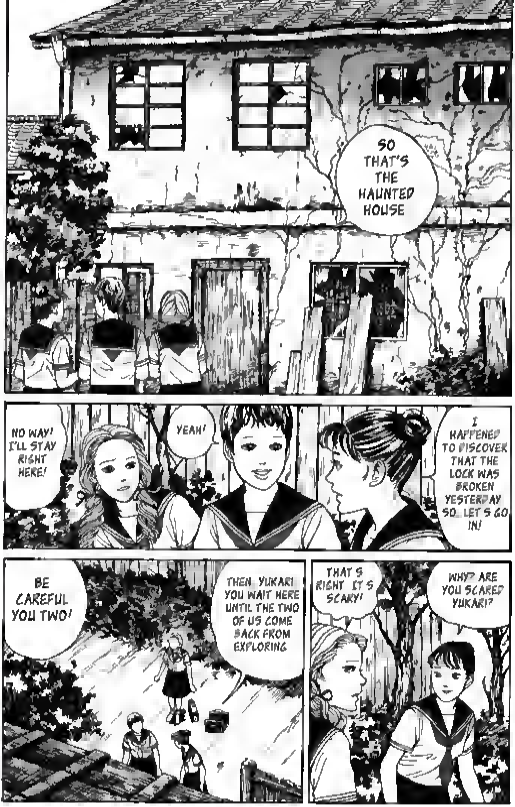
LICK
LICK

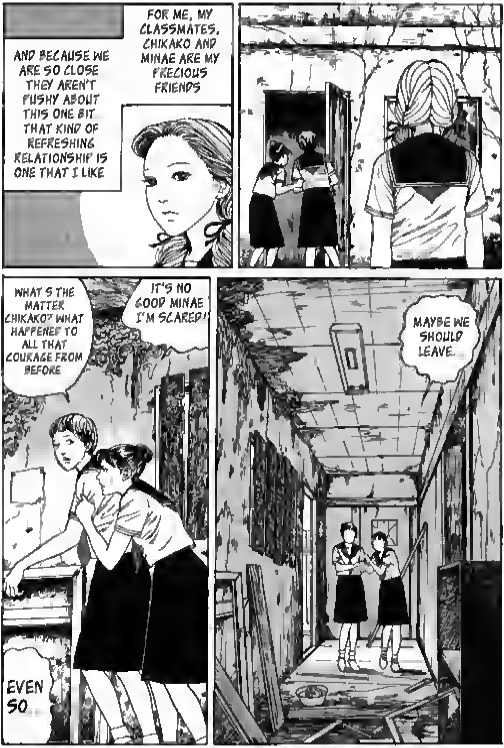

IT'S ICE CREAM.
THIS IS SO SWEET

LICK
LICK
LICK
DAISUKE-KUN BECAME A YOGURT DOUBLE
KAZEYUKI-KUN IS STRAWBERRY
TAKESHI-KUN IS CHOCOLATE
KENICHI-KUN IS VANILLA


PPROO
DON
TOMOKI I SAID CUT IT OUT!
TOMOKI CUT IT OUT!
DON'T LICK THAT THING!
SPLAT
ICE CREAM!
ICE CREAM!
GAHH ~~!!!
ICE CREAM BUS* END


CLUBHOUSE


SO THAT'S THE HAUNTED HOUSE
NO WAY! I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE!
YEAH!
I HAPPENED TO DISCOVER THAT THE LOCK WAS BROKEN YESTERDAY SO... LET'S GO IN!
BE CAREFUL YOU TWO!
THEN, YUKARI YOU WAIT HERE UNTIL THE TWO OF US COME BACK FROM EXPLORING
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S SCARY!
WHY? ARE YOU SCARED YUKARI?

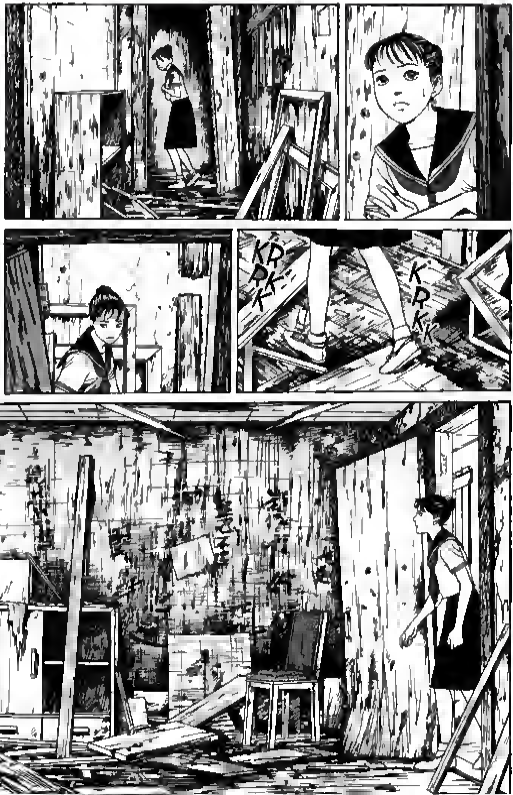

FOR ME, MY CLASSMATES, CHIKAKO AND MINAE ARE MY PRECIOUS FRIENDS
AND BECAUSE WE ARE SO CLOSE THEY AREN'T PUSHY ABOUT THIS ONE BIT THAT KIND OF REFRESHING RELATIONSHIP IS ONE THAT I LIKE
WHAT'S THE MATTER CHIKAKO? WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT COURAGE FROM BEFORE
IT'S NO GOOD MINAE I'M SCARED!
EVEN SO...
MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE...

I WONDER WHAT IN THE WORLD THAT'S DOING THERE
BUT THERE'S A HOLE OPENED UP
HEY LOOK! IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS STAIRCASE ARE THE REMAINS OF A BLOCKADE

I'M SORT OF GETTING THE CHILLS
NO WAY! THIS IS ENOUGH FOR ME ALREADY

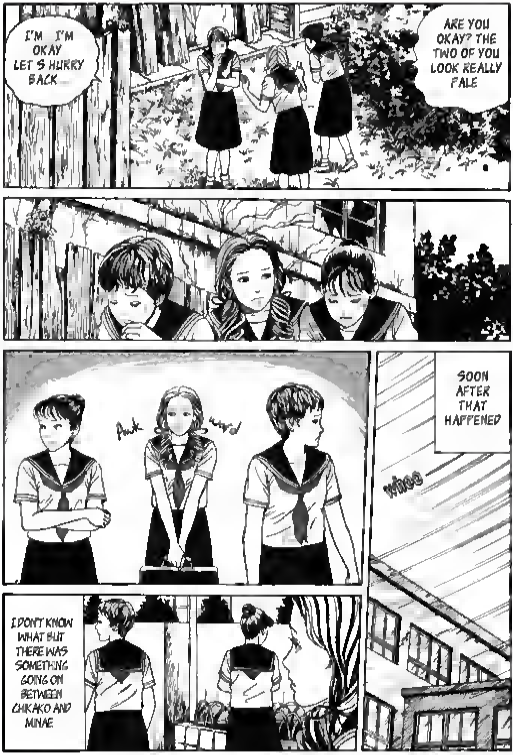
WHAT!?
HEY CHIKAKO, WANNA TRY GOING UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR?

THEN I'LL JUST GO TAKE A LOOK BY MYSELF OKAY?
STOP IT MINAE!
IT'LL BE FINE SEE YA!

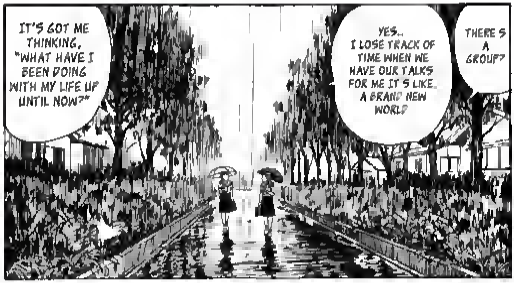

KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

I STARTED GETTING THE CHILLS SO I CAME BACK HERE
MINAE WENT TO CHECK OUT THE SECOND FLOOR
CHIKAKO HOW'D IT GO? WHERE'S MINAE ..?
CHH
SHE'S SLOW HUH?
...I WONDER IF MINAE IS OKAY...

YEAH THERE'S AN EXIT BEHIND THE HOUSE
YOU STARTLED ME COMING OUT OF A STRANGE PLACE LIKE THAT
MINAE
HEY HOW WAS THE SECOND FLOOR?
EH !!?
THAT WAS PROBABLY BLOOD I THINK
WELL IT WAS PRETTY AMAZING BUT THERE WERE STAINS SCATTERED ALL OVER THE WALLS AND CEILING
AH NO GOOD...
WE SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE IN
AH THAT SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE
Drrr
Drrr
NO WAY

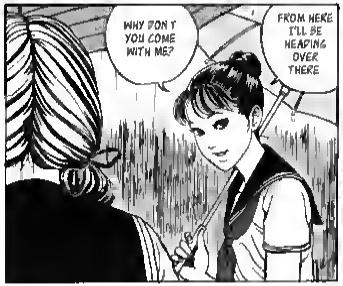

I'M I'M OKAY LET'S HURRY BACK...
ARE YOU OKAY? THE TWO OF YOU LOOK REALLY PALE
Awk
Awwd
SOON AFTER THAT HAPPENED
Whoo
I DON'T KNOW WHAT BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN CHIKAKO AND MINAE

I CAN NO LONGER STAY CONNECTED TO BOTH OF THEM
EVENTUALLY THE TWO OF THEM HAVE COMPLETELY STOPPED TALKING TO EACH OTHER AND DOING THINGS TOGETHER.
HEY CHIKAKO
WHAT'S UP YUKARI?
WHEN WILL YOU PATCH THINGS UP WITH MINAE?
YOU'RE STILL ASKING ABOUT THAT YUKARI?
WHY? WHAT HAPPENED WITH MINAE?
I'LL IGNORE THAT PERSON FOREVER YUKARI AS WELL YOU SHOULDN'T ASSOCIATE WITH HER
THAT'S ENOUGH ISN'T IT... LEAVING THAT ASIDE YUKARI...
RECENTLY THERE'S A GROUP I'VE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS WITH


IT'S GOT ME THINKING, "WHAT HAVE I BEEN DOING WITH MY LIFE UP UNTIL NOW?"
YES... I LOSE TRACK OF TIME WHEN WE HAVE OUR TALKS FOR ME IT'S LIKE... A BRAND NEW WORLD
THERE'S A GROUP?

COLLEGE STUDENTS?
THEY'RE COLLEGE STUDENTS
YOU'RE MEETING UP WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS?

THEY'RE NOT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
UMM I DON'T KNOW WHICH CLASS ARE THEY FROM?


WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME?
FROM HERE I'LL BE HEADING OVER THERE

AFTER THIS THEY WILL BE AT THE MEETING PLACE... AT THAT PLACE WE ALWAYS HAVE HEATED DISCUSSIONS
THAT'S RIGHT

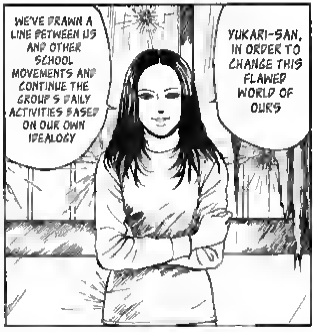
SHHH
I BET IT WOULD PROVE SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING MEANING TO YOUR OWN LIFE
WITH THE WAY SHE WAS TALKING LIKE AN ADULT, CHIKAKO PERPLEXED ME
THAT'S RIGHT YOU CAN ALSO BE ONE OF US YOU'D BE WELCOMED!
FS
SH
ISN'T THIS THE HAUNTED HOUSE FROM BEFORE?
IN THAT HOUSE IS WHERE WE MEET UP
WELL YUKARI THIS IS THE PLACE
WAIT A MINUTE
W

HOW, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? LET'S GO INSIDE
THAT'S RIGHT THE MEETING PLACE IS ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THIS HOUSE.
THAT'S ALRIGHT I'M SORRY BUT... I'M GONNA HAVE TO STOP HERE.
SO ARE YOU REJECTING MY FRIENDS AND I? ARE YOU SAYING YOU'VE CHOSEN TO GO DOWN THE SAME PATH THAT ANNOYING MINAE WENT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE YOU CAN'T GO BACK NOW!
EVERYONE IS WAITING!
NOW THEN YUKARI LET'S GO INSIDE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YUKARI?

C'MON. IT'S THIS ROOM OVER HERE
SHUT

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU BROUGHT A FRIEND WITH YOU TODAY
HELLO CHIKAKO-CHAN
HELLO EVERY-ONE
IT SEEMS SHE ALSO WANTS TO JOIN OUR GROUP SO I BROUGHT HER HERE
CHIKAKO
YES LEADER
LET ME INTRODUCE HER THIS IS YUKARI IZAWA
NICE TO BE HERE
IS THAT SO? WELL I'M HAPPY TO HAVE MORE MEMBERS MY NAME IS NAOMI NICE TO HAVE YOU

NOW THAT YOU'VE BECOME ONE OF US, AS IT IS, PLEASE BE AWARE OF YOUR ACTIONS FROM NOW ON.

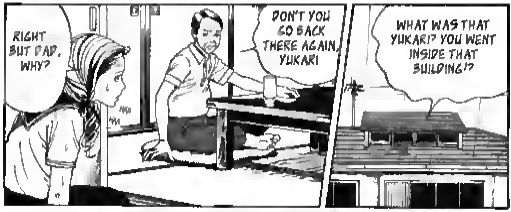

WE'VE DRAWN A LINE BETWEEN US AND OTHER SCHOOL MOVEMENTS AND CONTINUE THE GROUP'S DAILY ACTIVITIES BASED ON OUR OWN IDEALOGY
YUKARI-SAN, IN ORDER TO CHANGE THIS FLAWED WORLD OF OURS

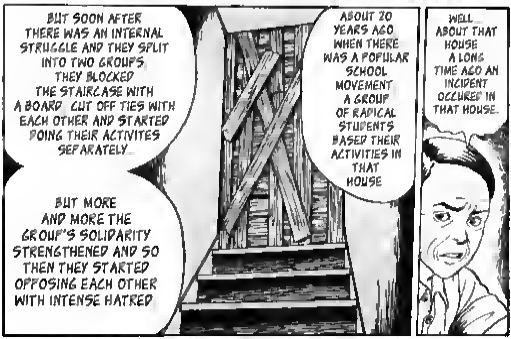
GLARE
AND THEN

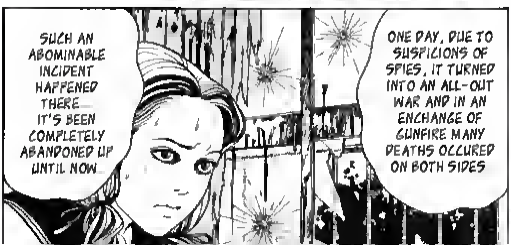
!
DON'T YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF OPINION? YOU'RE SITTING THERE DOING NOTHING DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MOTIVATION!?

SOON AFTER THEY STARTED UP SOME SORT OF DISCUSSION
EVEN CHIKAKO EAGERLY JOINED IN AS FOR ME, IT WAS TOO DIFFICULT FOR ME TO KEEP UP
I WAS JUST DUMBFOUNDED

SECOND FLOOR GUYS...? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
OR PERHAPS YOU'RE A SPY FOR THOSE SECOND FLOOR GUYS!?
WHY ARE YOU STAYING SILENT? DO YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF BONE TO PICK WITH US?
IF ANY SECOND FLOOR TRASH SOMEHOW SET THEIR FOOT IN HERE, I'M GONNA HAVE TO TEACH THEM A LESSON!!
QUIT PLAYING INNOCENT. YOU MUST'VE COME TO SCOUT US OUT... YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF GUTS
KYAA!
HOLD IT!


RIGHT BUT DAD, WHY?
DON'T YOU GO BACK THERE AGAIN, YUKARI
WHAT WAS THAT YUKARI? YOU WENT INSIDE THAT BUILDING!?

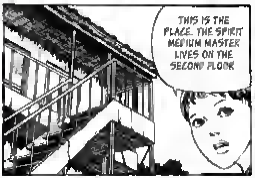

BUT SOON AFTER THERE WAS AN INTERNAL STRUGGLE AND THEY SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS. THEY BLOCKED THE STAIRCASE WITH A BOARD CUT OFF TIES WITH EACH OTHER AND STARTED DOING THEIR ACTIVITES SEPARATELY...
BUT MORE AND MORE THE GROUP'S SOLIDARITY STRENGTHENED AND SO THEN THEY STARTED OPPOSING EACH OTHER WITH INTENSE HATRED
ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO WHEN THERE WAS A POPULAR SCHOOL MOVEMENT A GROUP OF RADICAL STUDENTS BASED THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THAT HOUSE
WELL... ABOUT THAT HOUSE A LONG TIME AGO AN INCIDENT OCCURED IN THAT HOUSE.


SUCH AN ABOMINABLE INCIDENT HAPPENED THERE... IT'S BEEN COMPLETELY ABANDONED UP UNTIL NOW...
ONE DAY, DUE TO SUSPICIONS OF SPIES, IT TURNED INTO AN ALL-OUT WAR AND IN AN ENCHANGE OF GUNFIRE MANY DEATHS OCCURED ON BOTH SIDES

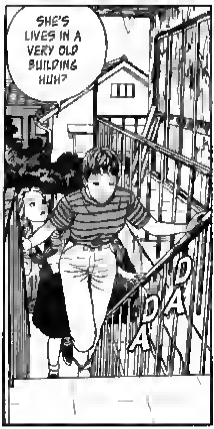
CHIKAKO'S BEING POSSESSED BY THE SPIRITS OF A GROUP OF RADICALS
THAT'S RIGHT MINAE! AND THERE'S REAL GHOSTS THERE!
CHIKAKO'S IN THE HAUNTED HOUSE?
EH?
I KNOW I HAVE AN IDEA
I KNOW A SPIRIT MEDIUM SPECIALIST LET'S TRY CONSULTING HER
MY DAD WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME EITHER BUT SOMEHOW WE HAVE TO GET CHIKAKO OUT OF THERE
YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME!
BUT THERE'S NO WAY! SOMETHING LIKE GHOSTS...
I SEE.
THEN MINAE... WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

EVER SINCE YOUR FIGHT I'VE REALLY BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE BOTH OF YOU

BUT THANK GOODNESS!! I KNEW YOU WERE STILL CHIKAKO'S BEST FRIEND
YOU REALLY KNOW SOMEONE LIKE THAT?


THIS IS THE PLACE. THE SPIRIT MEDIUM MASTER LIVES ON THE SECOND FLOOR

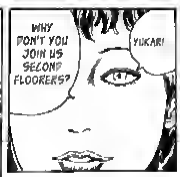
WELL, LET'S GO IN


SHE'S LIVES IN A VERY OLD BUILDING HUH?
DA
DA

BAM

THE BACK OF THIS HOUSE HAS A STAIRCASE THAT GOES UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR. MY FRIEND'S COME AND GO FROM THERE
OOHOOHOO YOU SURE ARE A SCATTERBRAIN YUKAKI. YOU DIDN'T NOTICE WE TOOK A BACK ROUTE TO GET HERE?
DOES SHE REALLY LIVE HERE?
T. THIS PLACE IS COMPLETELY RUN DOWN...
THAT THIS IS THE HAUNTED HOUSE
IF YOU LOOKED AROUND FROM THE BACK EVEN YOU WOULD'VE REALIZED...
AH!
F-NOO
F-NOO
THIS IS THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE HAUNTED HOUSE
OOHOO HOO THAT'S RIGHT
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...? THEN THAT MEANS THIS IS...

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THE STAIRS OVER THERE ARE A DEAD END
SHIIIII!!!!

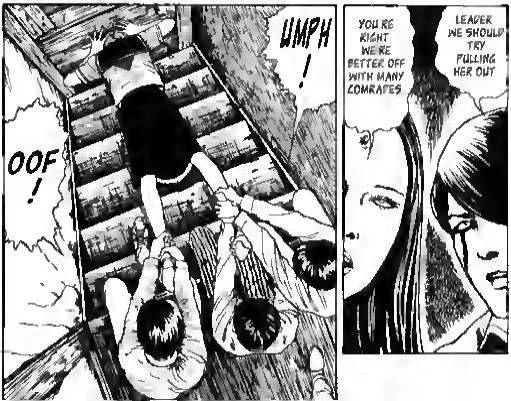

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US SECOND FLOORERS?
YUKA!!

GYAAA!!!

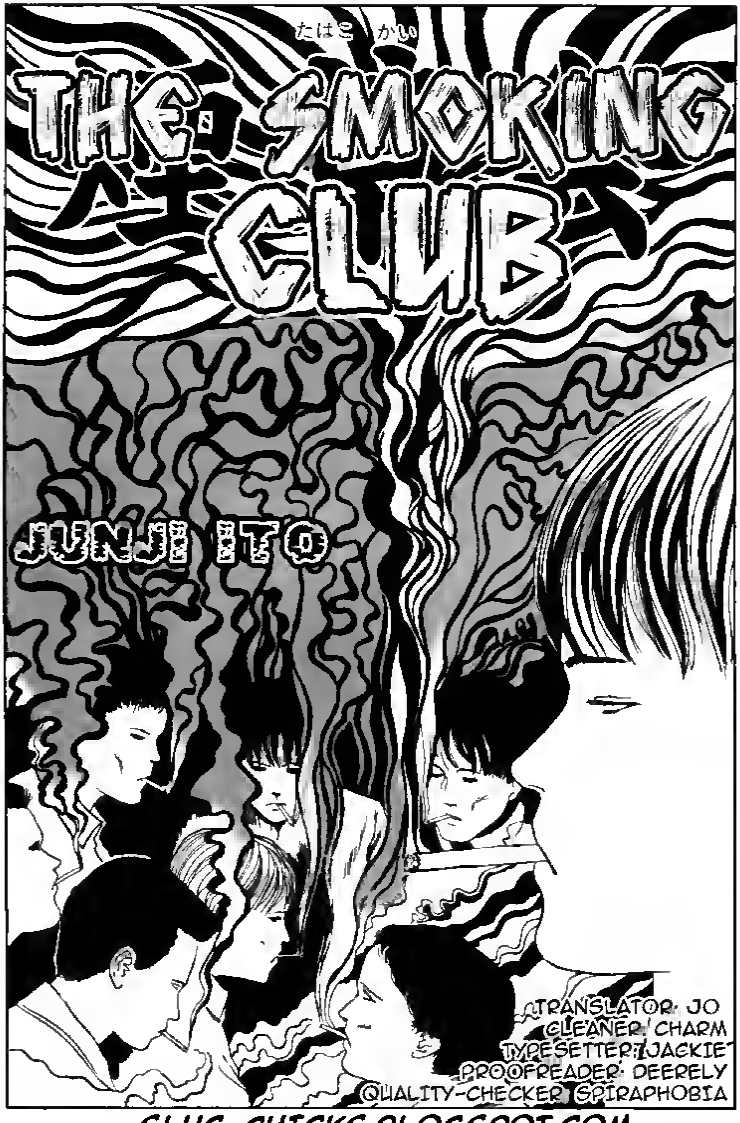
GYAAA~!!!!
DADADADAD
SOME-BODY HELP ME!!!
HIII~! I CAN'T GET LOOSE!
MAN YUKARI, YOU LOST YOUR FOOTING
AND YOU GO AND KNOCK A HOLE IN THAT BOARD WE WENT THROUGH GREAT PAINS TO REPAIR
HEY, JUST HER HEAD ENDED UP IN THE 1ST FLOOR TERRITORY
SO IF WE PULL HER OUT, ALL OF HER WILL BE ON OUR SIDE
INDEED

CHIKAKO! HELP ME! MY HEAD IS STUCK

IT SEEMS HER CURRENT STATE IS ONE OF NEUTRALITY
WHAT IN THE WORLD? WHICH SIDE IS THAT GIRL ON?


UMPH!
OOF!
YOU'RE RIGHT WE'RE BETTER OFF WITH MANY COMRADES
LEADER WE SHOULD TRY PULLING HER OUT

OOF!
UMPH!
HIII-!! CHIKAKO, MINAE, HELP ME!
HELP ME!
Whoosh
WHOO
SH
CLUBHOUSE * END



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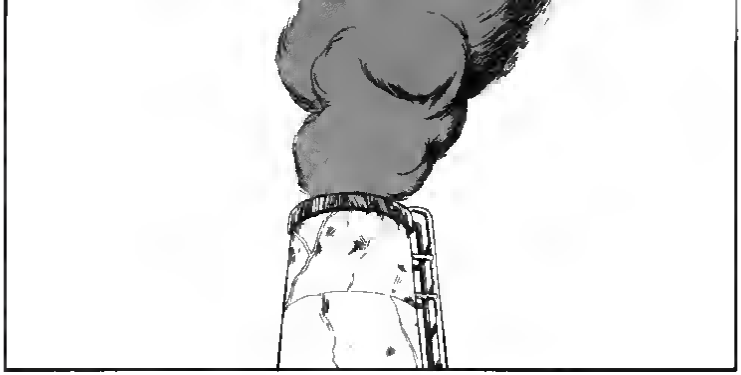


YOU KIDS! DON'T YOU KNOW WHERE YOU STAND AS A STUDENT?
GENTS
OI!
COME OUT, ALL OF YOU!
ALL OF YOU HAVE BEEN SMOKING EH?
JUST LOOK AT THE SMOKE!
GIVE ME THE CIGARETTES!
THE CIGARETTES!!
WHAT?
HAND IT OVER!

NAKAYA?
WHO'S THIS NAKAYA?
SAY IT!
WHO DID YOU GET IT FROM?!
NAKAYA-KUN..
WHO IS IT FROM?!
I DIDN'T BRING ANY, SENSE!
I MERELY GOT ONE WHEN IT WAS DIVIDED AMONGST US
WHAT?!
BUT THE CONTENTS ARE FROM JAPAN.
HAH! YOU DEFIANT KIDS!
FANCY SMOKING FOREIGN BRAND CIGARETTES!
JUST THIS?
TRUS
LIGHT
..ANYWAY!
DISCIPLIHARY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU STUDENTS!

COME CLOSER.
SMOKING CLUB?
DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE SMOKING CLUB?
OI, KONDOU.
WHAT'S UP, SHIRAI?

SHIRAI,
HAVE YOU BEEN HANGING AROUND WITH THAT GROUP OF PEOPLE RECENTLY?
YES.
COME ALONG!
IT WILL BE HELD IN NAKAYA'S HOUSE
BUT FIRST, I HAVE TO GET EVERYONE GATHERED
WHAT'S THE SMOKING CLUB?
BUT AREN'T YOU CURIOUS?
WHEN DID YOU START SMOKING?
I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THEM, GETTING EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL, YA KNOW.
SMOKING CLUB, HUH...
HEY! YOU TWO!
STOP DAY DREAMING AND CLEAN UP!
AH... YES.
COME ON!
YOU GOTTA TRY SMOKING NAKAYA'S CIGARETTES!
WELL...
IT TASTES TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHERS!

HE'S THE ONE WHO CAUGHT NAKAYA AND HIS GANG, RIGHT?
HE IS REALLY PARTICULAR ABOUT CATCHING STUDENTS WHO SMOKE
AH - THAT GOT ME FOR A SECOND...
I HOPE HE DIDN'T HEAR OUR CONVERSATION...
YOU'RE GONNA GET CAUGHT FOR SMOKING TOO, SHIRAI...
HEY KONDOU, LET'S GO THERE TOGETHER...
RIGHT NOW.
FINALLY DONE WITH CLEANING UP,
LET'S HEAD HOME.

OH!
THERE'S NO PROBLEM TO IT... BUT IS HE ABLE TO KEEP THIS A SECRET?
YOU'RE HERE, SHIRAI.
IS IT ALRIGHT TO LET HIM JOIN US STARTING TODAY?
OF COURSE! HIS LIPS ARE SEALED!

A STENCH THAT MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE
BLACK COLORED SMOKE
IS THIS THE KIND OF SMOKE THAT COMES OUT OF A CIGARETTE?
TRY IT
HU..
FUH

I SEE.
WHAT AN INTERESTING WAY TO EXPLAIN IT.
BUT TO ME...
HOW DO I SAY IT...
IT FEELS LIKE I'VE SMOKED SOMETHING THAT I SHOULDN'T.
IT TASTED REALLY DARK...
THE TASTE IS REALLY UNSETTLING..
IT TASTED DARK, HUH?
DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ORDINARY CIGARETTES,
IT HAS AN OBNOXIOUS TASTE.
I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT IT WAS DUE TO THE BAD MAKING PROCESS.
YOU'RE RIGHT
I HAD THE SAME THOUGHT WHEN I FIRST TRIED IT

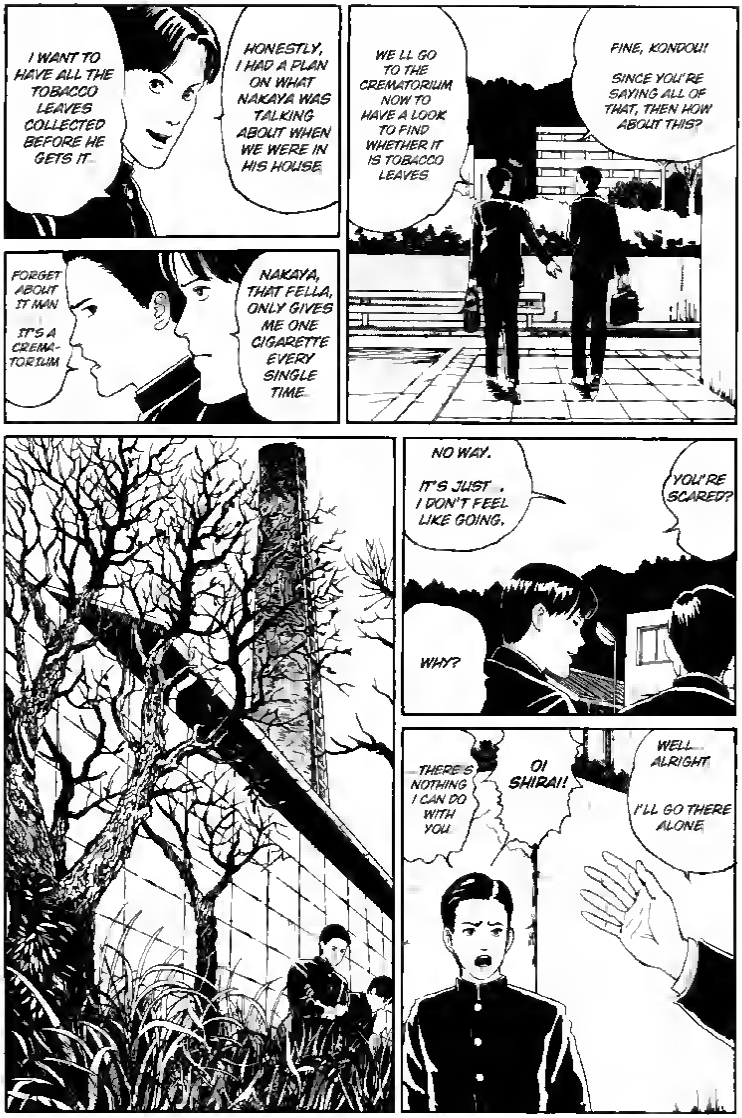
HOWEVER THE PROCESS OF MAKING CIGARETTES IS TO HAVE TOBACCO LEAVES DRIED UNDER THE SUN, ISN'T IT?
AND SO I DOUBT THAT'S THE REASON
THAT MEANS... YOU MADE THIS CIGARETTE YOURSELF?
THAT'S RIGHT
NAKAYA-KUN...
BUT TOBACCO IS CERTAINLY NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN EASILY OBTAIN, NO?
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE TOBACCO LEAVES?
I DIDN'T CULTIVATE ANY. INSTEAD, I USED SOMETHING THAT GREW NATURALLY.
THERE IS A PLACE WHERE TOBACCO LEAVES GROW NATURALLY?
YES
BESIDES, THE QUALITY OF THE LEAVES IS EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD DUE TO ITS LOCATION
I HAVE ALREADY COLLECTED ALL OF IT.

THE CREMATORIUM
AT THE CREMATO-RIUM.
EH. WHAT PLACE IS IT?
BESIDE THE CRE-MATORIUM ...
BECAUSE THE ASHES WILL BE BURIED SOMEWHERE NEARBY.
. AND THOSE ASHES WILL SERVE AS FERTILIZERS FOR THE PLANTS
I'VE HEARD THAT IT'S REALLY GOOD TO GROW PLANTS AT SUCH PLACES. .
IT SHOULD BE READY FOR HARVEST BY SUMMER.
LET'S ALL GO THERE TOGETHER.
THE PLACE WHERE I'VE COLLECTED THESE TOBACCO LEAVES HAS STARTED GROWING AGAIN
ARE YOU AWARE THAT IN WORLD WAR II, WHEN NAZI GERMANY HAD THE JEWS MASSACRED AT THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS?
IT WAS SAID THAT THE CROPS NEARBY GREW PARTICULARLY WELL.

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S NOT SOMETHING TO MAKE A FUSS OVER?
IT'S SIMILAR TO THE VEGETABLES WE HAVE BEEN EATING.
YOU'RE SAYING..
THESE TOBACCOS HAVE ABSORBED NUTRIENTS FROM HUMANS?
RIGHT?
YOU ARE UNABLE TO GIVE ME AN ANSWER TO WHAT TYPE OF NUTRIENTS THOSE VEGETABLES HAVE BEEN TAKING IN.
IT'S EXHILERATING AT THE POINT WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO BREATHE OUT AFTER INHALING THE SMOKE
HOW DO I PUT IT... IT'S ALL DARKNESS BEFORE MY EYES.
INDEED,
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS..
THIS CIGARETTE.. IS JUST TOO WEIRD..
THIS SMOKE, THIS SMELL..
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE...

KONDOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GET SMOKING! THE CIGARETTE'S GETTING SHORTER.
LET'S GO HOME!
WE GOTTA LEAVE!
OI, SHIRAI. .
STOP SMOKING!
グイッ

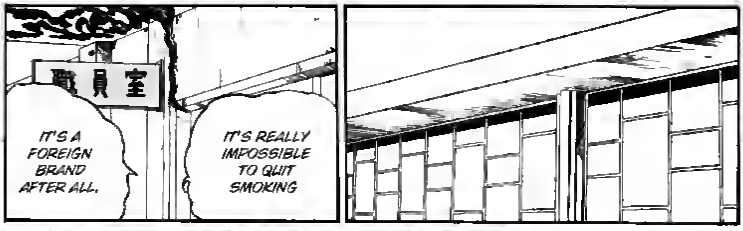
YEA, NOT A SINGLE WORD!
IT'S ALRIGHT IF YOU TWO WANNA LEAVE FIRST, BUT DON'T FORGET TO KEEP THIS A SECRET.
YOU GUYS BETTER STOP SMOKING THAT CIGARETTE!
THE SMOKE... IT'S JUST TOO ODD!
EXCUSE US, NAKAYAMA-KUN
WE'LL BE LEAVING FIRST.
IT'S JUST LIKE A CHIMNEY!
THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT TOBACCO LEAVES, BUT SOME UNKNOWN GRASS!
OF COURSE IT'S NORMAL FOR A MOUTH TO EXHALE SMOKE.
BUT WITH THE BLACK SMOKE COMING OUT FROM THE EYES AND NOSE!
SHIRAI!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SINCE WHEN IS THERE SMOKE APPEARING FROM THE EYES AND NOSE? I DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THAT.
OI! YOU SAW IT TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
KONDOU! WHAT'S WITH YOU SAYING YOU WANTED TO LEAVE SO HURRIEDLY?


I WANT TO HAVE ALL THE TOBACCO LEAVES COLLECTED BEFORE HE GETS IT
HONESTLY, I HAD A PLAN ON WHAT NAKAYA WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN WE WERE IN HIS HOUSE
FORGET ABOUT IT MAN
IT'S A CREMA-TORIUM
NAKAYA, THAT FELLA, ONLY GIVES ME ONE CIGARETTE EVERY SINGLE TIME
WE'LL GO TO THE CREMATORIUM NOW TO HAVE A LOOK TO FIND WHETHER IT IS TOBACCO LEAVES
FINE, KONDOU!
SINCE YOU'RE SAYING ALL OF THAT, THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?
NO WAY.
IT'S JUST . I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING.
YOU'RE SCARED?
WHY?
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO WITH YOU
OI SHIRAI!
WELL ALRIGHT
I'LL GO THERE ALONE

IT'S REALLY TOBACCO LEAVES.
YEA
THIS IS IT.
AH!
IS THAT SO..
ALL OF THOSE MUST BE YOUR ILLUSION.
TO THINK THAT I ACTUALLY BROUGHT YOU TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
I'M SORRY THAT I FORGOT.
NOW I REMEMBER.
YOUR UNCLE'S FUNERAL WAS NOT TOO LONG AGO.

BECAUSE WHAT NAKAYA SAID WAS A LITTLE TOO NASTY...
SO I HAD PERHAPS MIXED UP THE CREMATORIUM'S CHIMNEY AND WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW TOGETHER
MY MIND'S PROBABLY TOO OCCUPIED WITH MY UNCLE'S FUNERAL
NAH... IT'S ALRIGHT. MAYBE IT'S LIKE WHAT YOU SAID, AN ILLUSION.
EXACTLY. CASE CLOSED. ANYWAY, DO YOU WANT A PUFF? WE DIDN'T GET TO SMOKE ANY JUST NOW.
OI... STILL SMOKING? SUCH TOBACCO, IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO KICK THE HABIT.

THAT TOBACCO...
JUST WHAT ON EARTH IS IT...
SHIRAI ...


職員室
IT'S A FOREIGN BRAND AFTER ALL.
IT'S REALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO QUIT SMOKING

AH... IT'S ALL DARKNESS BEFORE MY EYES...
IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO QUIT IT.
BU... BUT SHIKI-SHIMA SENSEI...

THE END

SECOND HAND RECORD
中古レコード
TRANSLATOR: BRUMALITY
CLEANER: ERASERABLE / KAIJU KOI
TYPESETTER: TINYVICES
PROOFREADER: BUNNYWITH
QUALITY CHECKER: OTAKUCHARM
SLUG-CHICKS.BLOGSPOT.COM

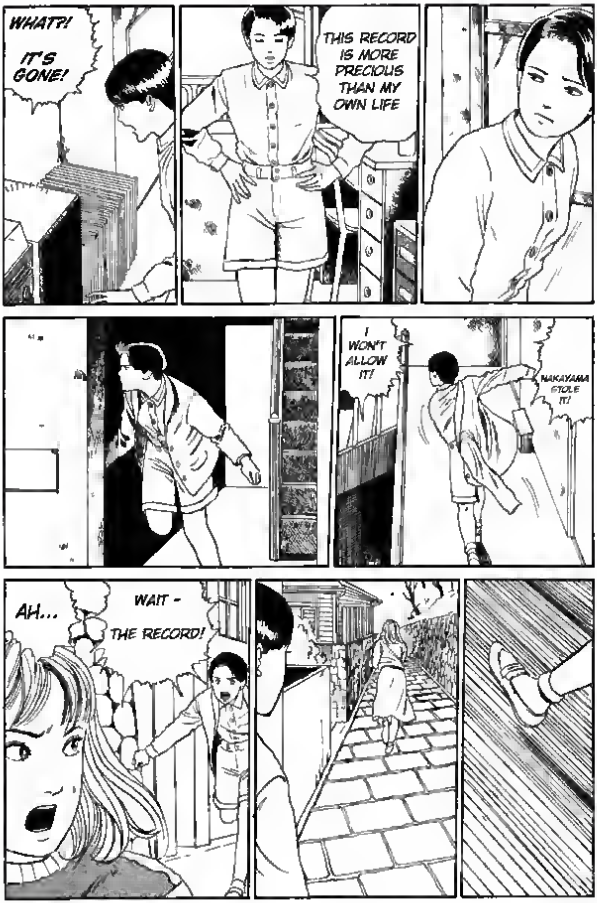
HUH... SO THEN, THIS THING ... WHERE DID ... HOW DID YOU SAY YOU GOT IT?
HOW ... IT CAME FROM GOD. AN ANGEL DROPPED IT .... DO YOU WANT TO LISTEN ONE MORE TIME?

DA BA DA BA DA BA DA
DA BA DOO BEE AH -
DA BA DA BA
DA BA DA-
DOO BEE DOO WA
LA LA LA DO BEE DO WA
LA LA LA LA LA LA
DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO
LA LA LA LA LA

LA LA...
LA LA LA...
YEAH...
IT'S DONE.

WHY NOT?
IT'S NOT AS IF COPYING WILL DEGRADE IT.
YEAH.
DON'T BE SO MEAN.
SO OGAWA,
YOU DEFINITELY WON'T MAKE A RECORDING FOR ME?
I'M NOT BEING MEAN.
IT'S AN EMOTIONAL THING.
EVEN IF IN REALITY IT WOULDN'T DEGRADE,
IT'S THE FEELING THAT COPYING IT WILL ROB THE MUSIC OF ITS CHARM BY HOWEVER MANY PERCENT.
I WON'T TELL YOU.
HOW AM I GOING TO BE ABLE TO FIND IT IF THE TITLE AND SINGER AREN'T WRITTEN ON THE SLEEVE?!
IF YOU REALLY WANT IT THAT MUCH, NAKAYAMA, WHY DON'T YOU GO BUY IT AT A RECORD SHOP?
WHERE DID YOU BUY IT? I'LL GO THERE
LENDING IT IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THE QUESTION!
AND LENDING IT...

IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
BUT I DON'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS, I'M NOT LIKE YOU AND DID YOU JUST COME TO MY HOUSE IN ORDER TO LISTEN TO THIS RECORD?
AND IF I DON'T COME HERE THEN NOBODY WILL
WHAT? SO YOU'RE JUST MOCKING ME THEN.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU'RE NO FRIEND OF MINE!
AND WHO THE HELL WOULD LEND SOMETHING TO YOU, ANYWAY?
IN THE CD ERA!
I CAME TO GAWK AT A STRANGE PERSON WHO STILL LISTENS TO ANALOG RECORDS EVEN NOW!
SO GO HOME ALREADY!
I AM GOING HOME! AND I WON'T BE COMING BACK!


WHAT?!
IT'S GONE!
THIS RECORD IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN MY OWN LIFE
I WON'T ALLOW IT!
NAKAYAMA STOLE IT!
AH...
WAIT - THE RECORD!

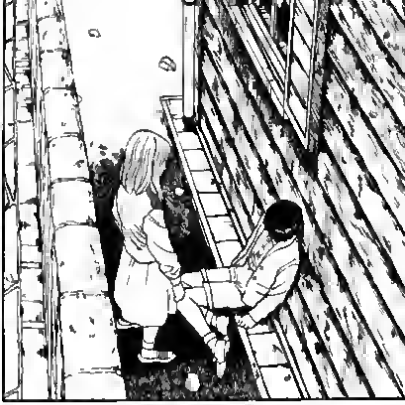
STOP!!
WAIT!

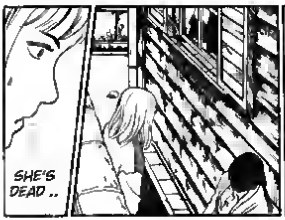
OW!

I WAS JUST BORROWING IT, AND YOU THROW A ROCK AT ME? HOW CRUEL.
YOU'RE LYING.
AAAH ..
OUCH

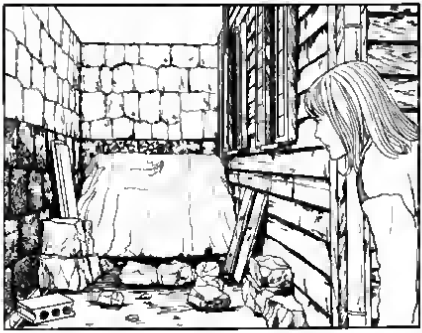
THOUGH IT MIGHT GET AROUND AT SCHOOL...
SO... GIVE IT BACK TO ME I'LL BE NICE AND NOT TELL THE POLICE.
YOU STEAL THE THINGS YOU WANT EVEN IF THEY BELONG TO SOMEONE ELSE
WHAT A SAD PERSON YOU ARE
HEY! GIVE IT BACK!
THIEF!
HEY!

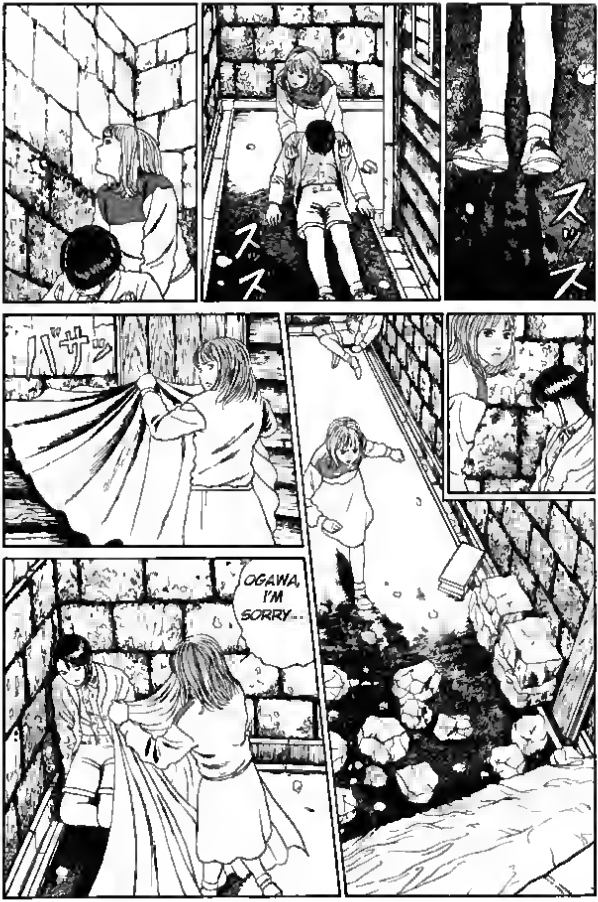
OGAWA?




SHE'S DEAD..

ARE YOU OKAY, OGAWA?
HEY...
OGAWA?

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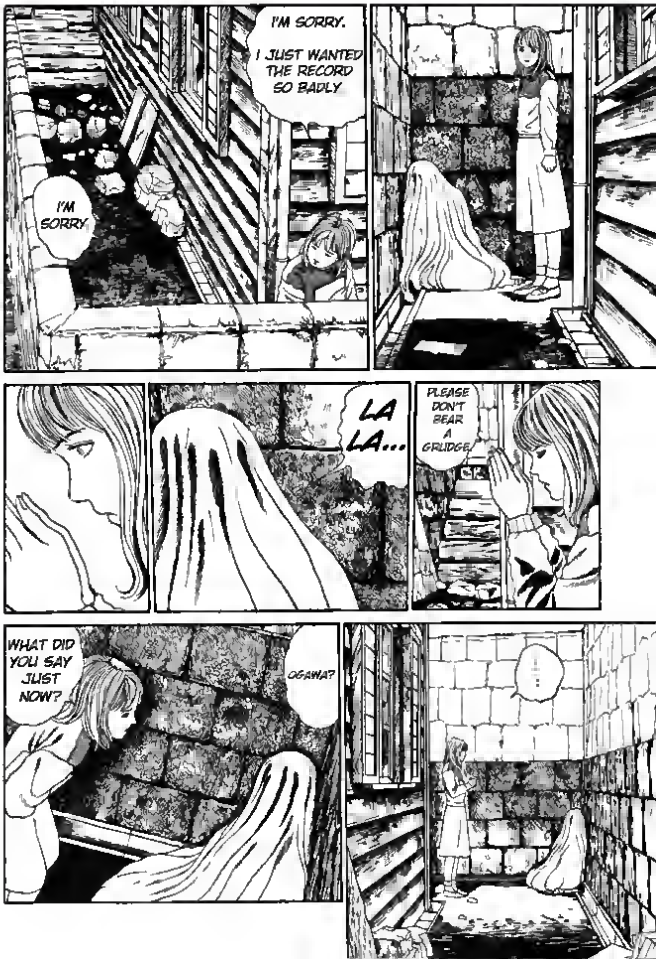
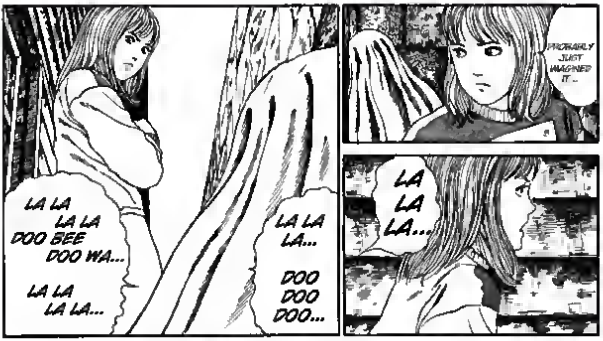
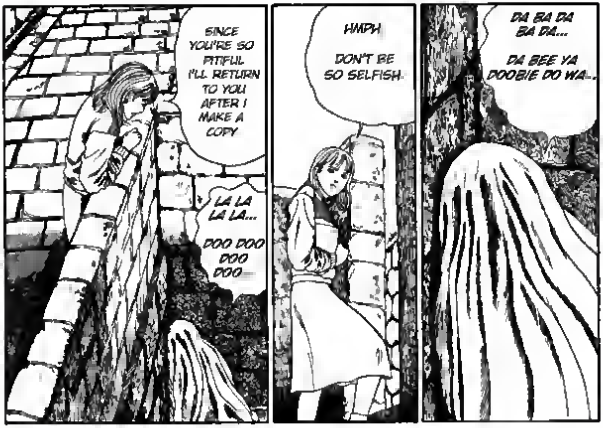
OGAWA, I'M SORRY...

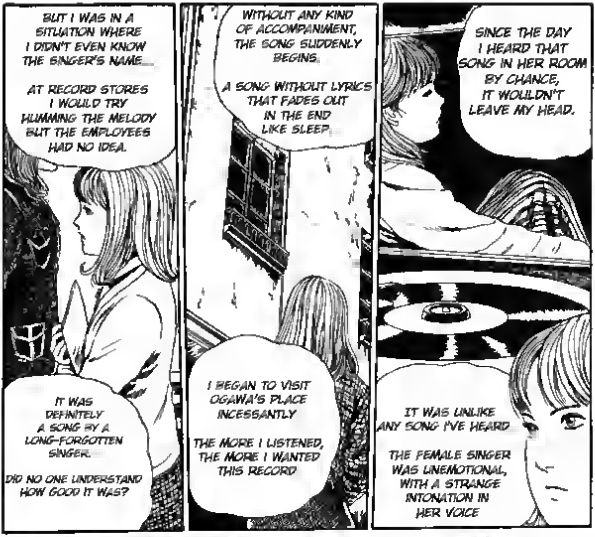

I'M SORRY.
I JUST WANTED THE RECORD SO BADLY.
I'M SORRY.
LA LA...
PLEASE DON'T BEAR A GRUDGE.
WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST NOW?
OGAWA?


LA LA LA LA DOO BEE DOO WA...
LA LA LA LA...
LA LA LA...
DOO DOO DOO...
PROBABLY JUST IMAGINED IT...
LA LA LA...

I APOLOGIZED TOO SOON.
WHAT? IS SHE STILL ALIVE?


SINCE YOU'RE SO PITIFUL I'LL RETURN TO YOU AFTER I MAKE A COPY
LA LA LA LA...
DOO DOO DOO DOO...
HMPH
DON'T BE SO SELFISH.
DA BA DA BA DA...
DA BEE YA DOOBIE DO WA...

AH... THAT'S FINE, THANKS.
YOU CAN BRING ONE IN FOR ME TO REPAIR, IF YOU LIKE...
HMM. TAEKO SAID HERS WAS BROKEN TOO... I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS ONE...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN THROWN OUT WITHOUT REPAIRING IT.
A RECORD PLAYER? AH, I'M SORRY IT BROKE JUST THE OTHER DAY.
THE NEXT DAY
IS THAT SO?
UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE ANALOG DEVICES HERE ANYMORE.
THIS.. SWEETLY HEART-RENDING RECORD
BUT... I WANT TO LISTEN TO IT RIGHT NOW
EVEN IF THEY HAD THEM IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE THE MONEY.


BUT I WAS IN A SITUATION WHERE I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THE SINGER'S NAME...
AT RECORD STORES I WOULD TRY HUMMING THE MELODY BUT THE EMPLOYEES HAD NO IDEA.
IT WAS DEFINITELY A SONG BY A LONG-FORGOTTEN SINGER.
DID NO ONE UNDERSTAND HOW GOOD IT WAS?
WITHOUT ANY KIND OF ACCOMPANIMENT, THE SONG SUDDENLY BEGINS.
A SONG WITHOUT LYRICS THAT FADES OUT IN THE END LIKE SLEEP.
I BEGAN TO VISIT OGAWA'S PLACE INCESSANTLY.
THE MORE I LISTENED, THE MORE I WANTED THIS RECORD.
SINCE THE DAY I HEARD THAT SONG IN HER ROOM BY CHANCE, IT WOULDN'T LEAVE MY HEAD.
IT WAS UNLIKE ANY SONG I'VE HEARD.
THE FEMALE SINGER WAS UNEMOTIONAL, WITH A STRANGE INTONATION IN HER VOICE

USED AND IMPORTED RECORDS
~21:00
FINALLY I GOT MY HANDS ON THE RECORD...
BUT NOT THE PLAYER, WHICH IS CRUCIAL

NO - ABSOLUTELY NO PLAYING OF RECORDS THAT AREN'T ON SALE HERE!
YOU WANT ME TO PUT ON YOUR RECORD?
HM...
THEY MIGHT HAVE A RECORD PLAYER.
THIS PLACE, THOUGH, IS A SECONDHAND RECORD STORE.
USED AND IMPORTED RECORDS
AH...
PLEASE!
JUST PLAYING IT ONCE IS ENOUGH!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
WITHOUT A DOUBT...
AND ON TOP OF THAT IT WASN'T FOR SALE!
THAT.. THAT'S A RECORD FROM THIS STORE!!!
HEY!
DID YOU STEAL IT?!
YOU... THAT RECORD... WHAT ON EARTH.. THAT SLEEVE.
THAT IS UNMISTAKABLY

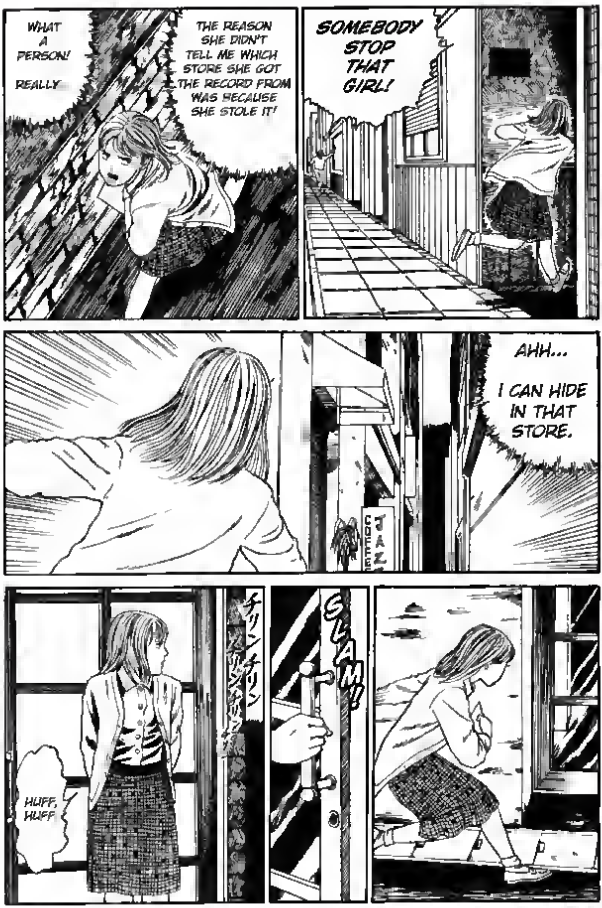
THAT RECORD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY OWN LIFE
THAT...
STOLE IT? NO WAY! IT WASN'T ME!
SO THEN WHY DO YOU HAVE IT? THERE'S ONLY ONE OF THEM IN ALL OF JAPAN!

COME TO THINK OF IT, INSIDE THE STORE THAT DAY THERE WAS ONLY ONE GIRL...
WAS THAT YOU?
A FEW MONTHS AGO I PUT IT ON AND AFTER IT FINISHED IT WAS STOLEN FROM THIS PLAYER

WAIT!

SO GIVE IT BACK
IF YOU GIVE IT BACK I'LL BE NICE AND NOT TELL THE POLICE

HEY!
AHH!
LET GO OF ME!


WHAT A PERSON!
REALLY...
THE REASON SHE DIDN'T TELL ME WHICH STORE SHE GOT THE RECORD FROM WAS BECAUSE SHE STOLE IT!
SOMEBODY STOP THAT GIRL!
AHH...
I CAN HIDE IN THAT STORE.
チリン チリン
SLAM!
HUFF, HUFF

ZUNJAN ZUNJAN
ZUNJAN ZUNJAN
ZUNJAN
WELCOME.
ZUNJAN ZUNJAN
ZUNJAN,
OH... THIS IS A JAZZ CAFE.
ZUNZU
AH... UM...
HM?
UM. ORANGE JUICE, PLEASE.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
RIGHT AWAY
ZUNJAN

UM. ACTUALLY...
...IS THAT SO?
NOPE.
IT'S A RECORD PLAYER.
AH...
ズンジャン ズンジャン
WHAT'S PLAYING NOW... IS IT THE RADIO?
THERE ARE NO LYRICS... JUST "LA LA LA" AND "DOO DOO DOO"
...WHAT KIND OF RECORD IS IT?
ZUNJAN ZUNJAN
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
GO AHEAD
THAT'S FINE.
THIS IS A JAZZ CAFE, AFTER ALL.
ZUN ZUN
AH... SO IT'S SCAT SINGING

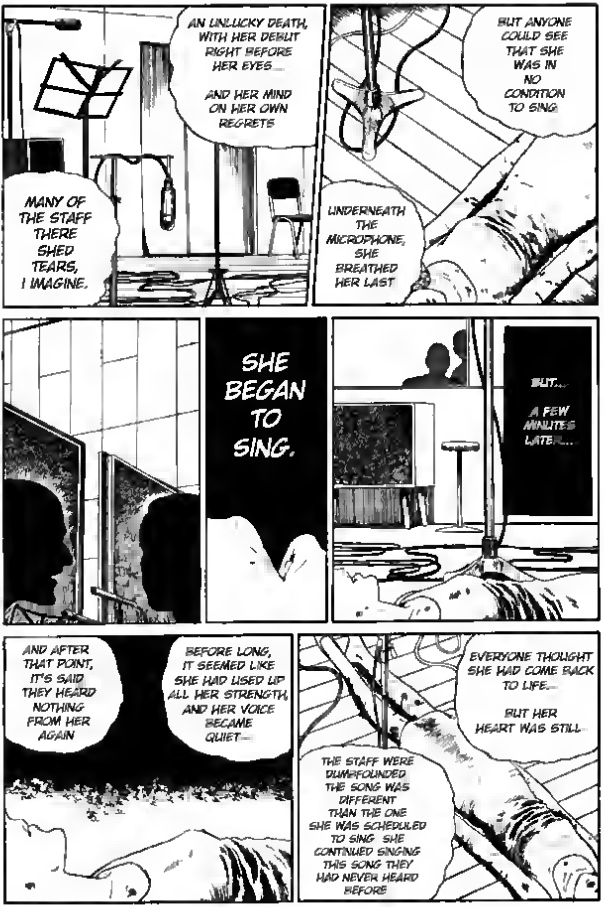
LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA...
LA LA LA...
DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO...
DA BA DOO BEE YA DOO BEE DO WA...
DA BA DA BA DA - DA BA DA BA DA -
THIS IS...

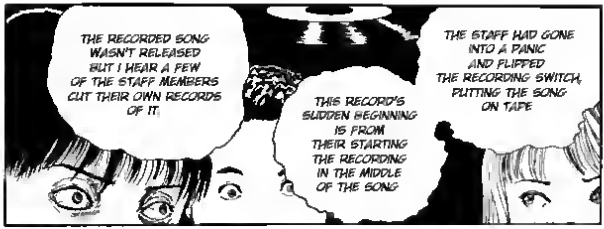
—WHAT'S THAT SONG CALLED
THAT'S...
LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA...
THERE'S NOTHING WRITTEN ON THE SLEEVE.
DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO...
SOMETIMES THERE'S SOMEBODY WHISPERING
IT SEEMS TO BE A LIVE RECORDING, SINCE YOU CAN HEAR THE AMBIENT SOUNDS.
AND AN ODD INTONATION, WITH AN UNEMOTIONAL SINGING VOICE.
DOO DOO DOO DOO...
AN ABRUPT BEGINNING TO THE SONG

LA LA LA LA DOO BEE DOO WA.
DA BA DA BA SHU BEE DOO WA...
HOO - DA BA DA BEE DOO BEE DOO WA -
A HEART-RENDING AND BEAUTIFUL MELODY
LA LA LA LA LA LA...
DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO -
LA LA LA...
LA LA LA LA LA...
LA LA LA LA LA...
DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO.
LA... LA...
LA LA LA LA LA LA...

...IT SEEMS LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW
THIS RECORD... IS A TERRIBLE THING.
HEY YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT?!
THARE'S NO DOUBT... THIS IS...
THE PEOPLE IN THE KNOW CALL IT "THE SCAT SINGING OF PAULA BELL!"
AND THEN IT ENDS LIKE THIS...
WELL... ACTUALLY I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS AN IMPROVISATION OR NOT... BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
THIS IS A SONG THAT WAS IMPROVISED BY A SINGER NAMED PAULA BELL.
IMPOSSIBLE... TO HAVE IT BEFORE MY EYES IN THIS PLACE
SINCE A LONG TIME AGO, AMONG MUSIC CONNOISSEURS THERE'S BEEN A SECRET RUMOUR OF A PHANTOM RECORD
THIS RECORD WAS RECORDED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHE DIED.
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THE TIME IN WHICH IT WAS RECORDED
I'LL TELL THE STORY... ...ONE THAT HAPPENED MANY DECADES AGO
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? AFTER SHE DIED, IT WAS RECORDED...

IT'S SAID THAT SHE HAD HER HEART SET ON A RECORDING DEBUT.
IT WAS HER ONE CHANCE AT FAME AFTER A LIFETIME OF OBSCURITY.
AT THAT TIME, PAULA BELL WAS A NO-NAME NIGHTCLUB SINGER
SHE WAS HIT BY A CAR ON THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE STUDIO.
BUT MISFORTUNE STRUCK.
WHEN THE DAY OF RECORDING FINALLY ARRIVED...
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS GREVIOUSLY INJURED...
SHE TOLD THE STUDIO STAFF THAT RUSHED TO HER AID THAT HER ONLY WISH WAS TO BE CARRIED INTO THE RECORDING STUDIO
THE STAFF WERE SO MOVED BY HER PERSISTENCE THAT THEY BROUGHT HER INTO THE STUDIO
42


AN UNLUCKY DEATH, WITH HER DEBUT RIGHT BEFORE HER EYES... AND HER MIND ON HER OWN REGRETS
MANY OF THE STAFF THERE SHED TEARS, I IMAGINE.
BUT ANYONE COULD SEE THAT SHE WAS IN NO CONDITION TO SING
UNDERNEATH THE MICROPHONE, SHE BREATHED HER LAST
SHE BEGAN TO SING.
BUT... A FEW MINUTES LATER...
AND AFTER THAT POINT, IT'S SAID THEY HEARD NOTHING FROM HER AGAIN
BEFORE LONG, IT SEEMED LIKE SHE HAD USED UP ALL HER STRENGTH, AND HER VOICE BECAME QUIET...
EVERYONE THOUGHT SHE HAD COME BACK TO LIFE... BUT HER HEART WAS STILL.
THE STAFF WERE DUMBFOUNDED THE SONG WAS DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE SHE WAS SCHEDULED TO SING SHE CONTINUED SINGING THIS SONG THEY HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE


THE RECORDED SONG WASN'T RELEASED BUT I HEAR A FEW OF THE STAFF MEMBERS CUT THEIR OWN RECORDS OF IT.
THIS RECORD'S SUDDEN BEGINNING IS FROM THEIR STARTING THE RECORDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SONG
THE STAFF HAD GONE INTO A PANIC AND FLIPPED THE RECORDING SWITCH, PUTTING THE SONG ON TAPE

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT COLLECTORS WOULD DROOL OVER, ISN'T IT?
PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT ITS EXISTENCE, BUT IT WAS SOMETHING THAT HARDLY ANYBODY HAD ACTUALLY SEEN.
YEAH. THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
HUH. IF THAT'S THE CASE, IS THIS THE PHANTOM RECORD YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT BEFORE?

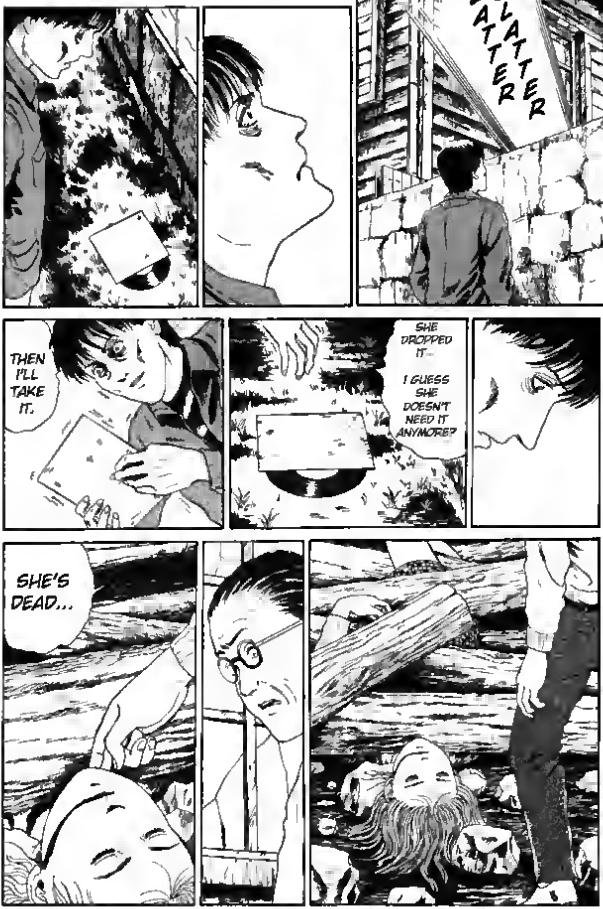
I'M VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP.
UM. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

...SO THAT'S DEFINITELY A SONG FROM THE OTHER WORLD...
YES... I'M LEAVING MONEY FOR THE BILL HERE...
OH... ARE YOU GOING HOME ALREADY?
WHAT A SPOOKY GUY...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
JAZZ
COFFEE
OH NO I BETTER GET HOME FAST.
AH -
JAZZ
COFFEE

HE'S FOLLOWING ME!
HE WANTS THE RECORD!!
AH -
AH -
THIS IS BAD! THE RECORD STORE MANAGER!

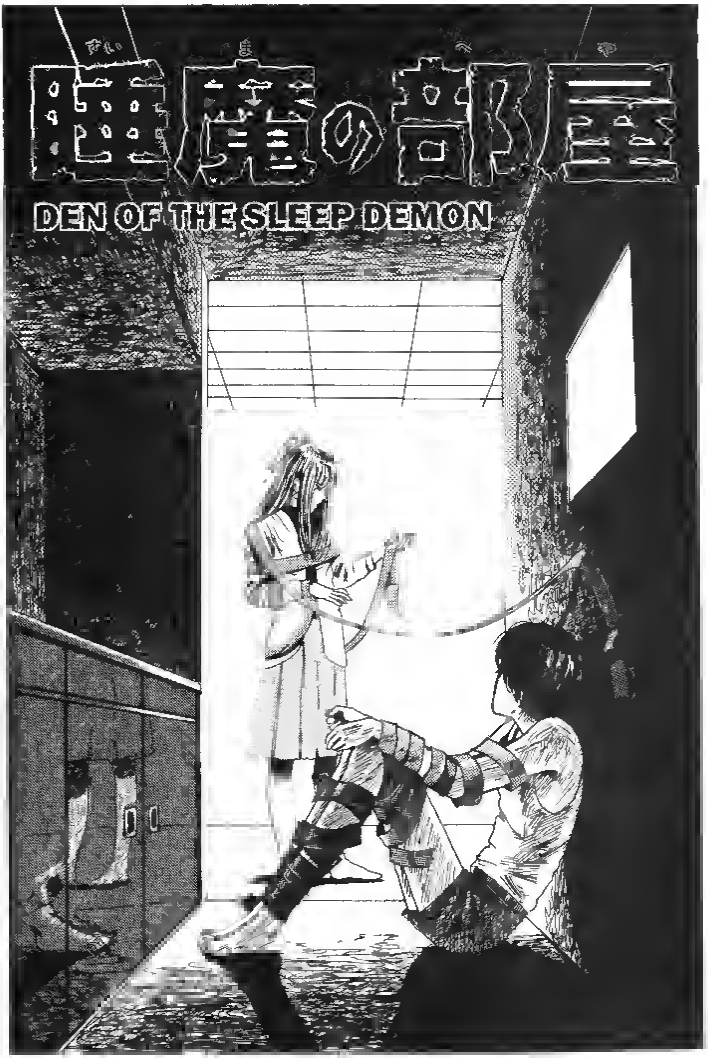
...OSAWA?
AH... THIS IS...
IMPOSSIBLE... YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE YESTERDAY?
STILL EXACTLY LIKE YESTERDAY...
WHAT IS THIS?
WERE YOU INTENDING TO HIDE? THAT'S SO CUTE.
OH, YOU'RE ACTUALLY IN A BAG...
CORNERED LIKE A RAT IN A BAG
HEH HEH HEH HEH.
YOU WERE DEFINITELY SINGING...
A SONG

NOW, GIVE BACK THE RECORD!
WHAT.. WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
IS... IS THIS A DEAD BODY?!
AAAAAH!


CLATTER
CLATTER
SHE DROPPED IT...
I GUESS SHE DOESN'T NEED IT ANYMORE?
THEN I'LL TAKE IT.
SHE'S DEAD...

IT'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND
FREAK?
IMPOSSIBLE
DID IT....
THE RECORD..
WHERE'S THE RECORD
...COULD IT HAVE POSSIBLY FALLEN OVER THE WALL?
HOW ODD I THOUGHT SHE DEFINITELY HAD IT A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
LA LA..
IT'S HIGH MAYBE IF I GO AROUND TO THE OTHER SIDE

LA LA LA DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO..
LA LA LA LA LA LA...
LA LA LA LA LA LA...
DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO..
DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO...
HOO - DOO BEE DOO WAA -
I CAN HEAR...
THE MELODY OF THE OTHER WORLD...
I CAN HEAR
—LA—


睡魔の部屋
DEN OF THE SLEEP DEMON

THREE DAYS?!
I HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR... THREE DAYS, NOW
WHAT'S THE MATTER, YUJI? YOU LOOK REALLY HAGGARD
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
WHY NOT? HAVE YOU STARTED ON A NEW NOVEL OR SOMETHING?

YUJI
I'VE GOT... A PROBLEM. AND IT'S...WELL, I DON'T THINK I COULD POSSIBLY TURN TO ANYONE ELSE.
MARI...
THERE'S THIS OTHER... ME. THERE'S SOMEONE ALIVE INSIDE MY DREAMS, WHO'S TRYING TO BREAK OUT INTO THE REAL WORLD
I KNEW YOU'D BELIEVE ME. THE THING IS...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
YOU SEE WHY I CAN'T LET MYSELF FALL ASLEEP?
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE HE FIRST TRIED IT.
THE MOMENT I FALL ASLEEP, HE WAKES... AND THEN HE TRIES TO DRAG ME INTO HIS WORLD, SO HE CAN TAKE MY PLACE HERE.

IS THIS ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR STORIES?
NO, I'M TELLING YOU, THIS IS HAPPENING!
WAIT, HOLD ON A SECOND
IF I DO THAT, HE'LL WAKE UP.
I'M NOT LYING, AND THIS ISN'T FICTION!
MARI, LOOK AT ME!
YOU MUST KNOW HOW STRANGE THIS ALL SOUNDS
AND IT'S CERTAINLY YOUR GENRE
YEAH... A DOCTOR!
A DOCTOR?
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF SEEING A DOCTOR?
YUJI...

YUJI!
THANKS A LOT, MARI
OKAY, SURE. A DOCTOR MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP
YUJI!
COME ON, YUJI, WAIT! DON'T GO!! I WAS JUST JOKING!
YUJI, COME ON!

BEST-CASE SCENARIO, THEY TOSS ME IN THE LOONY BIN. THAT'S WHAT WORRIES YOU, ISN'T IT
I JUST...CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT A DOCTOR COULD DO FOR ME.
I KNOW, MARI...
FOR THAT MATTER, I DON'T SEE ANYTHING A PSYCHIATRIST COULD DO, EITHER.
YUJI... I HONESTLY DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO?
ANYWAY, BY THE TIME I GOT SOMEONE TO LISTEN, HE'D ALREADY BE IN CONTROL.
YUJI...
.....
MARI, I... I WANT YOU TO WATCH OVER ME MAKE SURE I DON'T FALL ASLEEP

TELEPHONE
I TOLD MY PARENTS I'D BE GOING ON A TRIP WITH YOU. IF THEY ASK YOU, WILL YOU PLAY ALONG?
YEAH, I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY I JUST KNOW I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF HIM. THANKS, KEIKO.
IT'S JUST ANOTHER EXCUSE. HIS ACT IS GETTING BETTER, BUT... HOW DOES HE EXPECT ANYONE TO BELIEVE HIM?
I GUESS HE WON'T MAKE IT AS A WRITER.

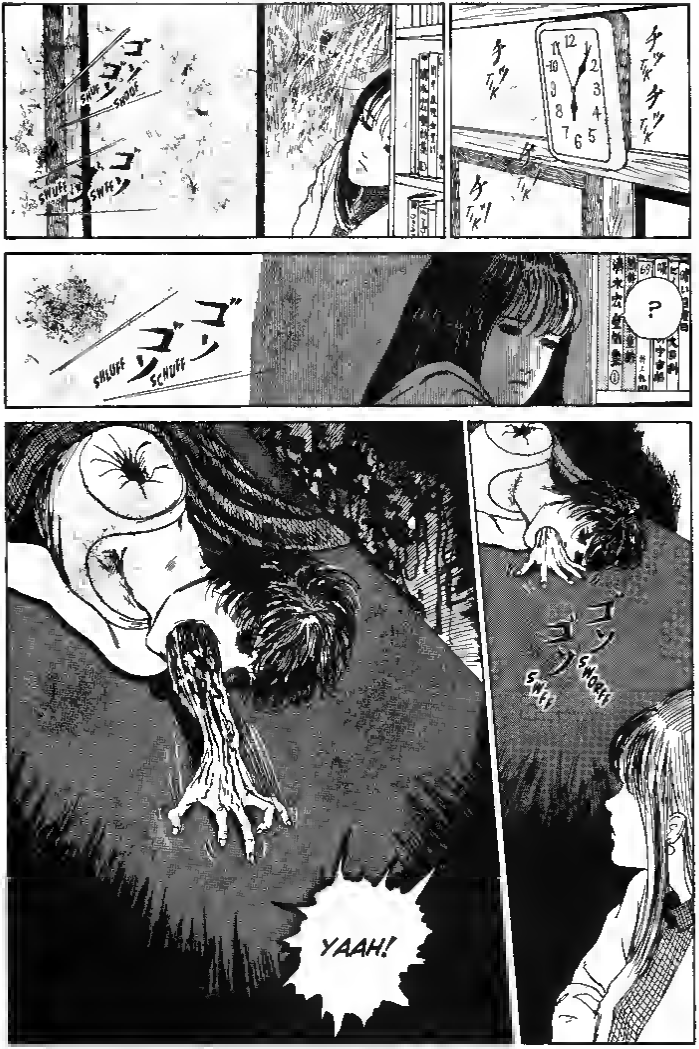
I WONDER IF THERE'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT
THE DEN OF THE DOOMED YOUNG WRITER
204
コンコン
KOK KOK

COME ON IN THANKS, MARI
YUJI
HEY.
HERE, I'LL MAKE YOU SOME COFFEE
I'VE ALREADY HAD MY FILL.
OKAY JUST FIX SOME FOR YOURSELF, THEN
OH, I'LL DO THAT

SO, UH HOW'S... "HE" DOING?
HE'S ASLEEP BUT I'VE JUST ABOUT HIT MY LIMIT
TUMP-UMP
MAR! WILL YOU TAPE MY WRISTS AND ANKLES TOGETHER?
WHAT FOR?
IT'S TO PREVENT HIM FROM COMING OUT! COME ON, HURRY!

IS THIS GOOD?
YEAH.
WELL, I'M HERE NOW-- SO DON'T WORRY. JUST TAKE A NICE NAP.
'COURSE, I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL EVEN WORK.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
YUJI...
シュキ
シュキ

IF THESE HORROR BOOKS ARE HIS BEDTIME READING, LITTLE WONDER HE HAS SUCH STRANGE DREAMS
THOP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?
YAAH!

YUJI!
AHH!
WAKE UP!

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WHAM
UGKH.
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GULP
ゴニ
YANK

MARI!! HELP ME!
HUFF HUFF
YOU TOOK OFF THE TAPE
WHOOO
YUJI... WHAT WAS THAT?

HE'S MY FLIP SIDE, IN THE DREAM-LAND.
THE OTHER ME LIKE I TOLD YOU.

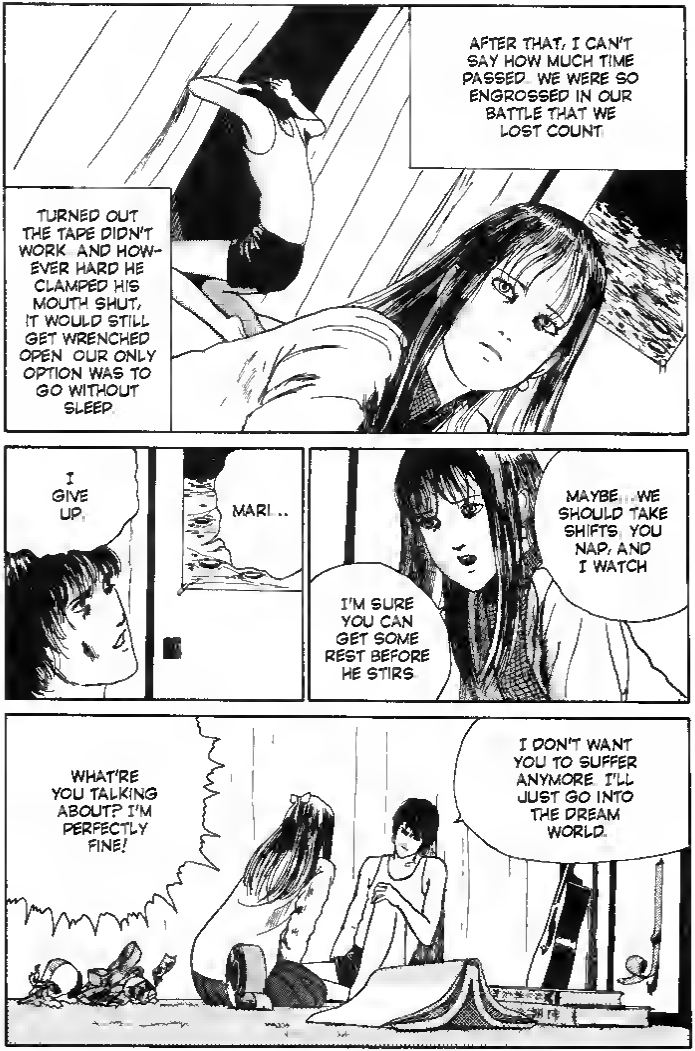
BUT IT IS! YOU SAW IT FOR YOURSELF.
THIS IS CRAZY... IT CAN'T BE HAPPENING! IT JUST--

ALL THIS TIME HE'S BEEN DREAM-ING INSIDE ME...
...BUT NOW HE'S DISCOVERED THE OUTSIDE WORLD

BUT, I...

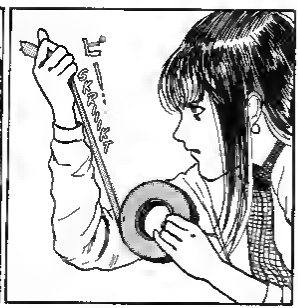
YEAH LIKE A REVERSIBLE JACKET
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL GO COMPLETELY INSIDE OUT?
BUT I... THIS IS STUPID!
...MAYBE I WAS BORN WITH AN EMPTY BODY.
WELL THE ONLY EXPLA-NATION I CAN COME UP WITH IS...
WHAT ABOUT YOUR BONES? YOUR... INTES-TINES AND THINGS?
THE HUMAN BODY ISN'T JUST A... A COAT!
STOP IT!
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN MY LACK OF STOMACH PROBLEMS, ANYWAY.
OR MAYBE I WENT HOLLOW WHEN I LOST MY FAMILY...

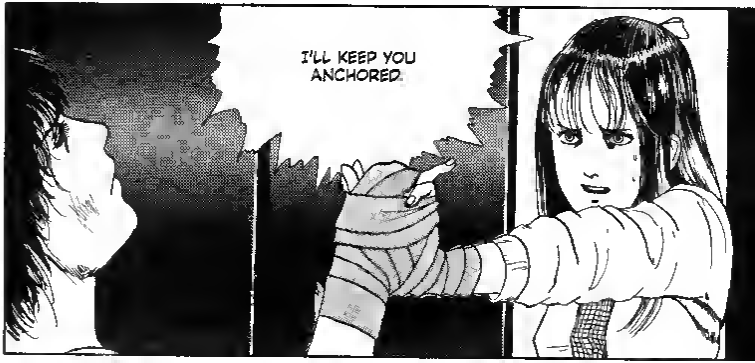
WHEN I WAS A KID I WANTED TO FLY, LIKE A BIRD. SO I TRIED EVERYTHING-- LIKE TAPING FEATHERS TO MY ARMS...IT NEVER DID ANY GOOD, OF COURSE. THEN I THOUGHT OF DOING IT IN MY DREAMS
MY DREAMS ARE WEIRDLY REAL, YOU KNOW.
YUJI!! DON'T FALL ASLEEP!!
YOU NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT THAT.
MY DREAMS WERE MORE REAL THAN MY REALITY.
"YOU WANT TO FLY?" I'D ASK. "HOW STUPID ARE YOU?"
BUT WHEN I ACTUALLY DREAMED. . I'D LAUGH AT MYSELF.
THAT MAKES IT FOUR DAYS, NOW...!
THANKS, MARI I FEEL MUCH BETTER.
...
WHY WOULD HE WANT TO LEAVE THEM?
IN DREAMS, ANYTHING SHOULD BE POSSIBLE.


AFTER THAT, I CAN'T SAY HOW MUCH TIME PASSED. WE WERE SO ENGROSSED IN OUR BATTLE THAT WE LOST COUNT.
TURNED OUT THE TAPE DIDN'T WORK. AND HOW-EVER HARD HE CLAMPED HIS MOUTH SHUT, IT WOULD STILL GET WRENCHED OPEN. OUR ONLY OPTION WAS TO GO WITHOUT SLEEP.
I GIVE UP.
MARI..
MAYBE...WE SHOULD TAKE SHIFTS. YOU NAP, AND I WATCH
I'M SURE YOU CAN GET SOME REST BEFORE HE STIRS.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M PERFECTLY FINE!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO SUFFER ANYMORE. I'LL JUST GO INTO THE DREAM WORLD.

AND I... I FEEL THE SAME WAY
THAT'S WHY I'VE RESISTED THIS FAR
MARI... DO YOU KNOW WHY HE'S SO DAMNED STUBBORN?
HE WANTS YOU.
IT'S YOU HE'S AFTER.
YUJI!
YUJI!
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!

I WON'T LET YOU GO.




I'LL KEEP YOU ANCHORED.

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THOMP

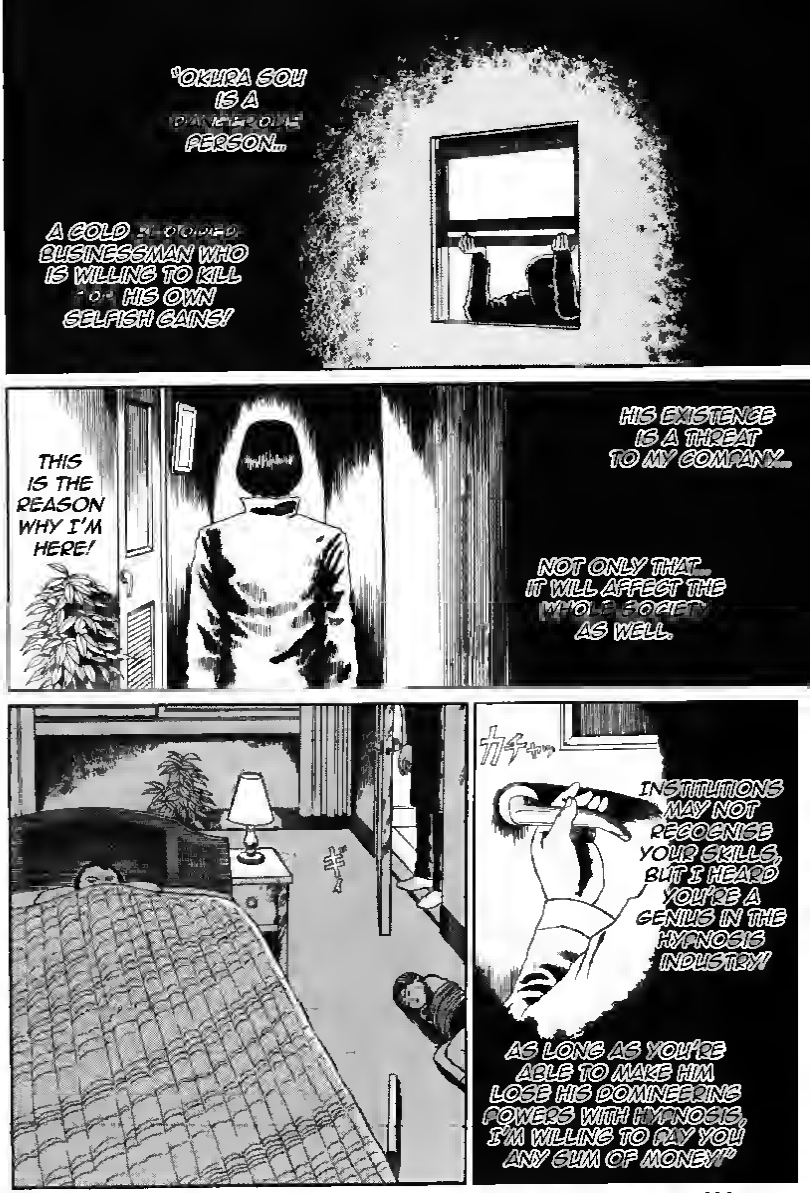
SHUFF
シャカ
SHUFF
SHUFF
シャカ
SHUFF
AHH!
SPLORCH
ボン
ボロンボロ
TWING
TWAN
TWANG
バシッ
SBAPP
ドサ
THOP

ガサ ガサ
SHUF SHUF
SWFF
ガサガサ
SWOFF
FINE, THEN I'LL GO WITH YOU
YUJI...
SLITHER

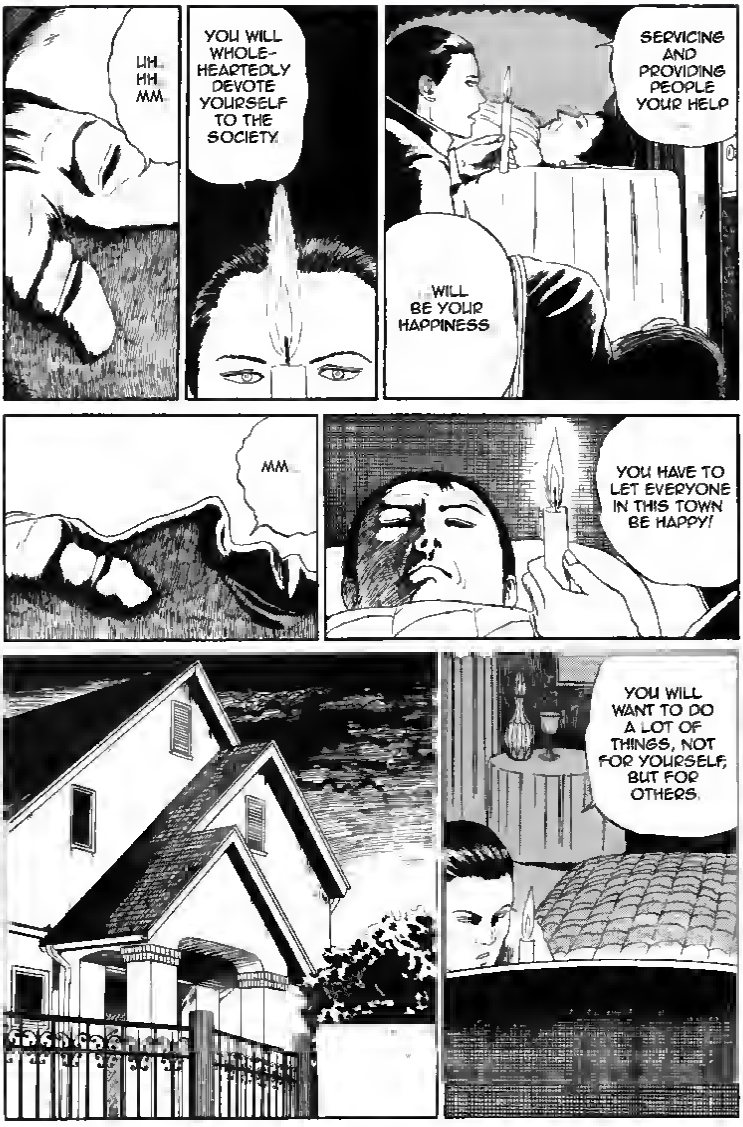
HE TOLD ME HE HAS NO FAMILY AND LIVES ALL BY HIMSELF.
IT'S THIS UNIT.
HM? DOESN'T SEEM TO BE LOCKED.
COME IN...
WE'RE WITH THE POLICE. WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS.
HIRANO, ARE YOU IN?
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I TAKE A LOOK INSIDE?
HIRANO... CAN I ASK WHOSE TOTE BAG THIS IS?
WE'D APPRECIATE ANY COOPERATION YOU CAN GIVE US...
YOU'RE A FRIEND OF MARI IGARASHI, IS THAT RIGHT? IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, SHE'S RECENTLY GONE MISSING.

EXPLAIN YOUR-SELF!
WH-WHAT?!
FOR SHE HAS BE-COME MY INTESTINE.
THERE'S NO USE LOOKING FOR HER
YOU'RE... YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME YOU ATE HER?
I MERELY... GAVE HER A ONE-WAY TRIP TO MY DREAM WORLD.
NO.

TYPESETTER: MARIE | TRANSLATOR: JO | CLEANER: TENBOUDAI
SLUG-CHICKS.BLOGSPOT.COM


"OKURA SOU IS A DANGEROUS PERSON...
A COLD-BLOODED BUSINESSMAN WHO IS WILLING TO KILL FOR HIS OWN SELFISH GAINS!
THIS IS THE REASON WHY I'M HERE!
HIS EXISTENCE IS A THREAT TO MY COMPANY...
NOT ONLY THAT, IT WILL AFFECT THE WHOLE SOCIETY AS WELL.
INSTITUTIONS MAY NOT RECOGNISE YOUR SKILLS, BUT I HEARD YOU'RE A GENIUS IN THE HYPNOSIS INDUSTRY!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE ABLE TO MAKE HIM LOSE HIS DOMINEERING POWERS WITH HYPNOSIS, I'M WILLING TO PAY YOU ANY SUM OF MONEY!"

SO I SEE . I'VE HEARD OF HIS HORRIBLE ACTS, BUT I WOULD HAVE NEVER THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD LET HIS SON SLEEP TIED UP AFTER ALL THE BEATINGS, AS HE SLEEPS SO COMFORTABLY ON HIS BED."
HIS WIFE HAD LEFT HIM LONG AGO, AND HIS YOUNG CHILD WAS BROUGHT BACK FORCEFULLY
FOR THE SOCIETY, FOR THE PERSON WHO LOOKED FOR ME, AND FOR THIS CHILD..
I SHOULD FINISH THIS JOB QUICKLY!
YOU WILL FORGET YOUR PAST-YOUR SELFISH SELF . AND WHEN YOU'RE FULLY AWAKE, YOU WILL WANT TO HELP PEOPLE WITH YOUR OWN EFFORT.
TOMORROW MORNING, WHEN YOU WAKE UP . YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF DIFFERENT FROM THE PAST..


UH.
HH
MM
YOU WILL WHOLE-HEARTEDLY DEVOTE YOURSELF TO THE SOCIETY.
SERVICING AND PROVIDING PEOPLE YOUR HELP
WILL BE YOUR HAPPINESS
MM
YOU HAVE TO LET EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN BE HAPPY!
YOU WILL WANT TO DO A LOT OF THINGS, NOT FOR YOURSELF, BUT FOR OTHERS.

AH! WHERE DID MY KID RAN TO?
AND HE'S GIVING OUT PRESENTS TOO, THAT'S SO IRRITATING! I HAVE TO TELL MY CHILD NOT TO GO NEAR HIM!
LOOK! HE IS LURKING AROUND AGAIN AND HE LOOKS LIKE HE IS COMING INTO THE PARK
YUKO, WHERE ARE YOU?

LITTLE ONE, HERE'S AN INTERESTING THING.
IT'S A PRESENT FOR YOU
キコ
キコ
EXCUSE ME SIR! CAN YOU STAY AWAY FROM MY CHILD?
WE DON'T NEED THIS KIND OF THINGS, TAKE IT A WAY!
YUKO! DON'T TAKE THAT KIND OF STUFF!
ARE YOU PLANNING TO KIDNAP MY CHILD?
NO! I ONLY WANT PEOPLE TO BE HAPPY ..

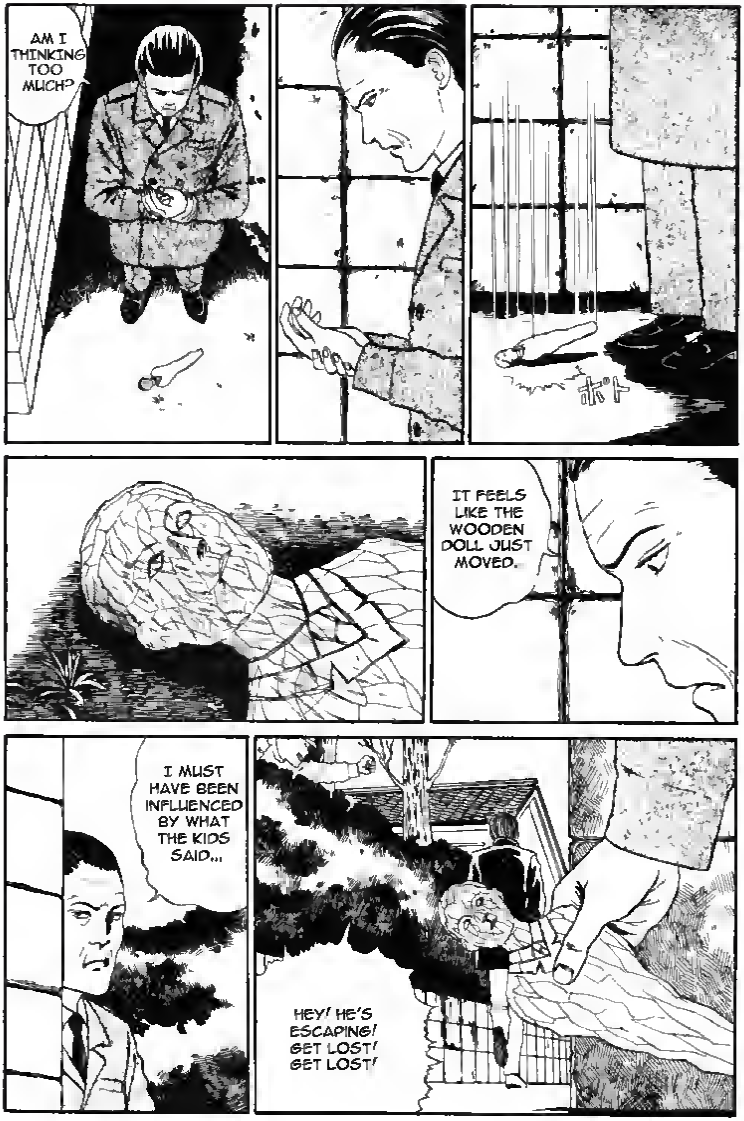
I DON'T NEED IT!
HOW ABOUT THIS. I'LL GIVE THIS TO YOU!
COME ON! LET'S GO!
キコ キコ
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU IN THIS TOWN BEFORE, ARE YOU HERE ON A TRIP?
ポン ポン
THANKS

WHAT ACTUALLY WERE YOU DOING?
YOU APPEARED NOT LONG AFTER..
I WAS HERE FOR ONLY A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME SINCE IT WAS FOR WORK.
YES! I WAS HERE IN THIS TOWN ONCE AROUND 14 OR 15 YEARS BACK.
I HAPPEN TO COME BY IN THIS TOWN TODAY, AND WAS SITTING AROUND AT THE PARK.
YES, YOU CAN SAY IT'S MY JOB, ALTHOUGH I WILL NOT HAVE ANYTHING IN RETURN WHILE DOING THIS.
HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN DOING THIS FOR 14 YEARS.
I.. I'M JUST DISTRIBUTING PRESENTS WHILE WALKING THAT'S ALL..
DISTRIBUTING PRESENTS?
IT'S A WOODEN DOLL.
OH WHAT'S INSIDE?
OH YES! YOU ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT MY GIFT, I GUESS? THE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN SEEM RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT MY GIFTS RECENTLY..
YES, IT'S ALMOST LIKE A MISSION, I CAN'T STOP DOING IT.
14 YEARS?

OH YES! HE LOOKS FAMILIAR..
THIS YOUNG BOY...
WOODEN DOLLS
NO WAY?
OH RIGHT! I BETTER GO TO THE TOWN TO GIVE OUT THESE WOODEN DOLLS
I HAVE TO GO NOW BYE!
I CAN'T BE WRONG!
ビリ
WHY IS OKURA'S SON DOING SUCH THINGS?
THIS IS THE WOODEN DOLL OF OKURA SOU! WHY?

WHO THREW THE STONE AT ME?
HEY! IT GOT HIM!
IT HURTS
ゴツン
WHO THREW IT? COME OUT! I WON'T GET ANGRY.
HEY HEY HEY! IT'S THE DEVIL WHO LOVES TO GIVE PEOPLE PRESENTS FOR NO REASON!
LIKE I WOULD CARE ABOUT THAT THING!
I DON'T WANT THAT!
I WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING GOOD, COME ON OUT!

IT WILL START MOVING AROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
THE THINGS YOU ARE DISTRIBUTING RIGHT NOW ARE DEMONIC WOODEN DOLLS!
DEMONIC WOODEN DOLL?
DEMO-NIC WOO-DEN DOLL!
WHO WOULD WANT THAT DISGUSTING WOODEN DOLL! DEMONIC WOODEN DOLL!
YOU MUST HAVE USED YOUR SUPER POWERS TO MAKE THEM MOVE!
STOP ACTING! THE WHOLE TOWN KNOWS ABOUT IT!
NONSENSE! THIS IS JUST A NORMAL WOODEN DOLL.
BLEHHH!!!
IF YOU'RE UNHAPPY ABOUT IT, THEN MAKE THE WOODEN DOLLS MOVE!
HEY! THE WOODEN DOLL MANIPULATOR WHO LOVES GIVING PEOPLE THINGS!


AM I THINKING TOO MUCH?
IT FEELS LIKE THE WOODEN DOLL JUST MOVED.
I MUST HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY WHAT THE KIDS SAID...
HEY! HE'S ESCAPING! GET LOST! GET LOST!

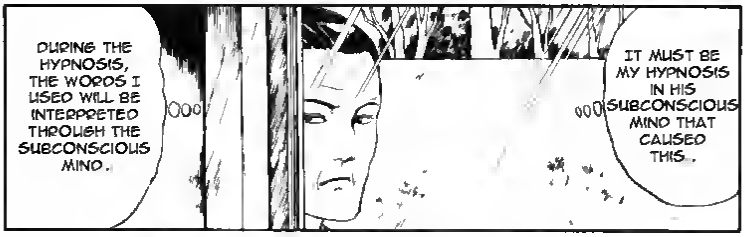
HEY! IT'S YOU...
AH? YOU'RE STILL GIVING OUT THOSE GIFTS!
STILL GIVING ME?
WE MEET AGAIN, HERE'S A PRESENT FOR YOU
GOD! IT'S THIS AGAIN!
HOWEVER, EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE UPSET.
I'M NOT HAPPY! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP DOING THIS?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THIS TOWN WHO IS WILLING TO RECEIVE MY PRESENTS. YOUR NAME IS LISA, RIGHT?

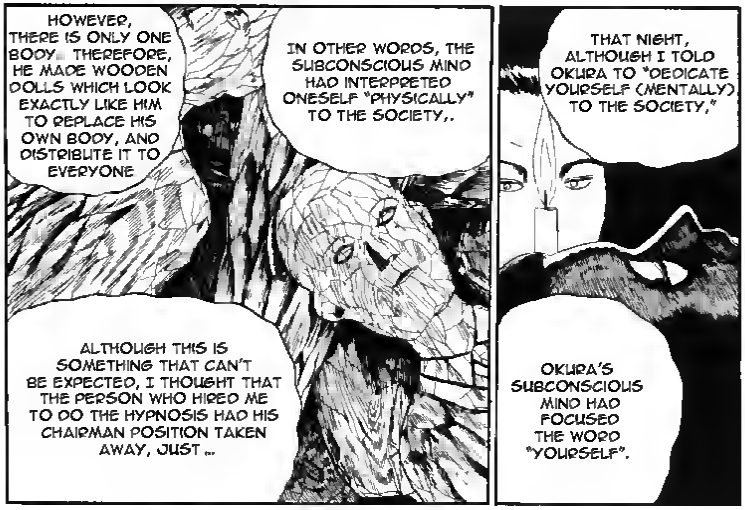
THERE ARE STILL MANY OF IT IN MY HOUSE.
THIS IS A STATUE OF MY DAD, HE CARVED IT OUT HIMSELF.
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO BE HAPPY? THIS WEIRD WOODEN DOLL. IT'S NOT EVEN CUTE.
GIVING IT HAIR AND LET IT WEAR SOME CLOTHES.
HOW ABOUT THIS? MAKE THE WOODEN DOLLS CUTER...
THIS WAY, EVERYONE WILL BE HAPPY
WHY?
HM.. HOW DO I SAY IT...
IF YOU WISH FOR EVERYONE TO BE HAPPY, THEN GET THEM A BETTER GIFTS LIKE SWEETS OR SOMETHING.
NO NO! IT WILL BE POINTLESS IF I DON'T GIVE OUT THESE WOODEN DOLLS.
BIG BROTHER, WHERE IS YOUR HOUSE?
WHO CARES! LET'S DO WHAT I JUST SAID!
RIGHT NOW? YOUR FAMILY WON'T BE ANGRY ABOUT THIS?
LET'S GO TO YOUR HOUSE RIGHT NOW, I'LL HELP YOU, OKAY?

THIS IS BIG BROTHER'S HOUSE?
SO... HE IS REALLY OKURA'S SON!
YOU'RE LEFT WITH SO MANY OF THESE?
WHOA!

MY FATHER GIVES OUT WOODEN DOLLS THAT LOOKS LIKE HIMSELF— JUST TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY.
BECAUSE HE WANTED EVERYONE IN TOWN TO RECEIVE HAPPINESS.
WHY DID YOUR FATHER MADE SO MANY WOODEN DOLLS?
THE WOODEN DOLLS LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HIM.
HOWEVER, THE MOMENT HE WOKE UP ONE MORNING, HE STARTED CARVING WOODEN DOLLS.
BEFORE THAT, HE WAS A VERY SCARY PERSON. I WAS OFTEN BEATEN UP BY HIM.
IT WAS 14 YEARS AGO.
I HATED MY FATHER A LOT DURING THAT TIME.
BECAUSE I WANT THE PEOPLE IN TOWN TO BE HAPPY AS WELL.
ALTHOUGH MY MOTHER, WHO WAS SEPARATED WITH MY FATHER FOR TWO YEARS CAME BACK FOR ME, I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE WITH HER.
HE BECAME ANOTHER PERSON WHO DOESN'T CARE ABOUT HIS OWN COMPANY. INSTEAD, HE STARTED GIVING OUT HIS WOODEN DOLLS IN TOWN. I WAS ALSO HELPING HIM.

DESPITE THAT, MY FATHER AND I STILL COULDN'T STOP DOING IT... ON ONE PARTICULAR DAY, MY DAD MET WITH AN ACCIDENT AND PASSED AWAY...
PEOPLE WERE RECEIVING THE GIFTS IN THE BEGINNING, HOWEVER THEY START TO IGNORE US A FEW YEARS LATER.


DURING THE HYPNOSIS, THE WORDS I USED WILL BE INTERPRETED THROUGH THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND.
IT MUST BE MY HYPNOSIS IN HIS SUBCONSCIOUS MIND THAT CAUSED THIS...


HOWEVER, THERE IS ONLY ONE BODY... THEREFORE, HE MADE WOODEN DOLLS WHICH LOOK EXACTLY LIKE HIM TO REPLACE HIS OWN BODY, AND DISTRIBUTE IT TO EVERYONE
IN OTHER WORDS, THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND HAD INTERPRETED ONESELF "PHYSICALLY" TO THE SOCIETY,.
ALTHOUGH THIS IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE EXPECTED, I THOUGHT THAT THE PERSON WHO HIRED ME TO DO THE HYPNOSIS HAD HIS CHAIRMAN POSITION TAKEN AWAY, JUST ...
THAT NIGHT, ALTHOUGH I TOLD OKURA TO "DEDICATE YOURSELF (MENTALLY) TO THE SOCIETY,"
OKURA'S SUBCONSCIOUS MIND HAD FOCUSED THE WORD "YOURSELF".

LOOK!
WHY DID HIS SON CARRY ON WHAT HE HAS TO DO?
ALL OF THE WOODEN DOLLS HAVE IT.
I GUESS MY FATHER WANTS TO SEE THE TOWN'S HAPPINESS EVEN AFTER HIS DEATH.
YES, IT IS... BUT I'M JUST AFRAID THAT MY FATHER WILL BE ANGRY... AFTER ALL, THIS WOODEN DOLL HAS MY FATHER'S SOUL IN IT.
ISN'T IT CUTE?
I REMEMBER... THIS CHILD WAS ALSO IN THE ROOM THAT NIGHT...
HE HAD PROBABLY BEEN HYPNO-TIZED TOO...
LET'S MAKE MORE OF THESE BASED ON THIS LOOK.
IN ORDER TO GAIN THE TOWN'S HAPPINESS, YOU HAVE TO DO A MAKEOVER ON THESE DOLLS.

BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO LET HIM WAKE UP FROM THE HYPNOSIS... FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH HYPNOSIS CAN CAUSE DANGER IN LIFE AND WHATNOT.. SHOULD I HELP HIM REMOVE IT?
NO! I SHOULD OBSERVE A LITTLE MORE...
THAT'S RIGHT! MY HYPNOTIZING SKILL IS DIFFERENT. I DARE TO SAY THAT IT IS A WAY TO CONTROL PEOPLE'S HEART AND MIND...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT MEANS MY HYPNOSIS, EVEN AFTER 14 YEARS, CAN'T BE REMOVED NATURALLY.
AH!
LOOK! CUTE RIGHT?
YOU CAN DRESS UP AS SANTA CLAUS AND GIVE OUT THESE WOODEN DOLLS DURING CHRISTMAS NIGHT. I WILL HELP OUT TOO.
OH YES! I HAVE A GOOD IDEA! CHRISTMAS IS AROUND THE CORNER...
IF I DRESS UP AS SANTA CLAUS, EVERYONE WILL CERTAINLY BE HAPPY.. THANK YOU, LISA.
YOU'RE RIGHT! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

IT'S MY DAD!
AH!
OPEN THE DOOR! ARE YOU STILL NOT OPENING IT?!
WHO IS IT?
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, DAD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THIS? HOW DARE YOU SNATCH MY DAUGHTER?
AH? SO I'M RIGHT! YOU ARE HERE!
DAD!
SOMEONE TOLD ME THEY SAW YOU TAKE MY DAUGHTER AWAY!
I KNEW YOU'RE A WEIRD PERSON! ALWAYS AIMLESSLY WALKING AROUND IN THE TOWN!
ドン
DAD NO!

NO!
LISA! COME HERE! YOU REALLY MADE ME WORRY!
DAD, LISTEN!
YOU HEARD ME! DON'T GET CLOSE TO MY DAUGHTER!
DAD, I HATE YOU!
DAD! LET ME GO!

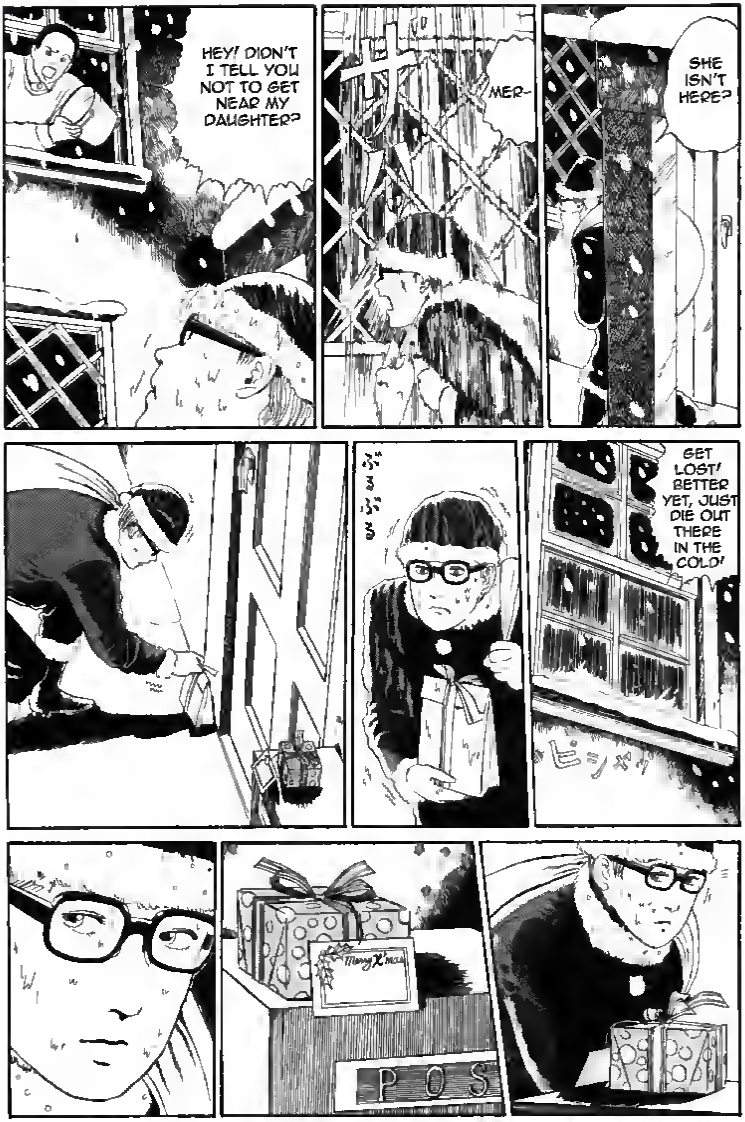
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME FOR THE HYPNOSIS TO BREAK OFF.
OBVIOUSLY, HE'S STARTING TO BE SUSPICIOUS SEEMS LIKE I DON'T HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF.
THAT ASIDE, HE LOOKS VERY INTERESTING. I SHOULD OBSERVE A LITTLE MORE!
NO! HOW IS THIS EVEN POSSIBLE?
ボトン
AGAIN! IT MOVED AGAIN!

IT'S A WHITE CHRIST-MAS! HOW RARE!
HEY! SANTA CLAUS IS HERE!
IT'S SO COLD!
IT'S SNOWING! C'MON, LET'S GET BACK QUICK, THERE'S A DINNER PARTY,

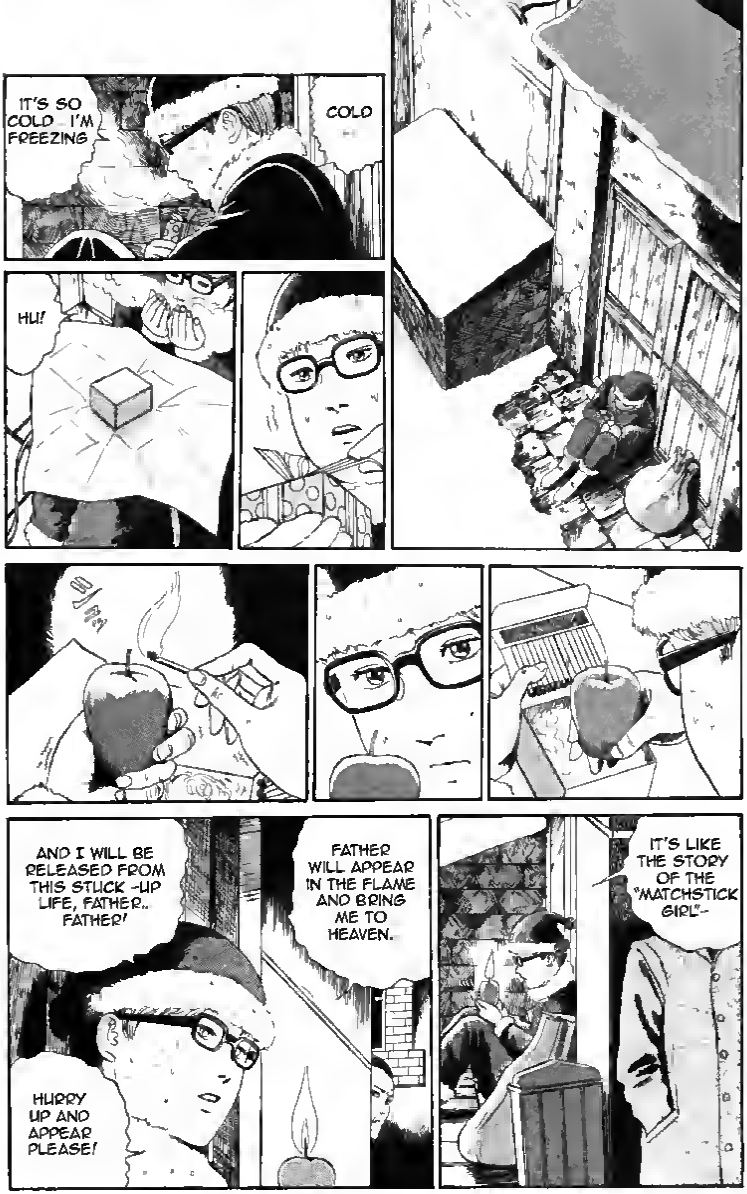
BACKROUND WORDINGS
MY STOMACH HURTS!
HAHAHAHAHA!

THEY SOUND LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN
ザクッザクッ
MERRY CHRISTMAS
BACKGROUND WORDINGS: HAHAHAHAHAHA
HI! I'M SANTA CLAUS!
MERRY CHRIST-MAS!
I'M GIVING OUT THIS CUTE DOLL AS A PRESENT TO THIS BLESSED FAMILY.
ジャッ

WHAT IS IT LISA? WHY ARE YOU LOW IN SPIRITS? EAT YOUR CAKE FAST.
LISTEN TO YOUR FATHER, LISA! FORGET ABOUT THAT CREEPY GUY!
HUMPH!
PEOPLE ARE SAYING HE DRESSED UP AS SANTA CLAUS, BUT NO ONE GIVES A DAMN!
MORE-OVER, EVEN IF HE COMES, I WILL NEVER LET HIM SEE YOU, I WILL DEFINITELY CHASE HIM AWAY.
ARE YOU STILL THINKING OF THE WEIRD PERSON? FORGET ABOUT IT! HE WILL NOT COME HERE.
SO THAT PERSON IS HERE?
LISA! YOU CAN'T GO OUT!
AH... IT'S BIG BROTHER! LET ME GO ALREADY!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!


HEY! DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO GET NEAR MY DAUGHTER?
MER-
SHE ISN'T HERE?
GET LOST! BETTER YET, JUST DIE OUT THERE IN THE COLD!
ピンポ
Merry X'mas
POS

HEY, HE'S REALLY HERE!
SERVES YOU RIGHT, YOU FAKE SANTA CLAUS!
YOU USELESS BUM!
JUST DISAPPEAR!
GO BACK! GET LOST! A PERSON LIKE YOU SHOULD FREEZE TO DEATH!


IT'S SO COLD I'M FREEZING
COLD
HU!
AND I WILL BE RELEASED FROM THIS STUCK -UP LIFE, FATHER.. FATHER!
FATHER WILL APPEAR IN THE FLAME AND BRING ME TO HEAVEN.
HURRY UP AND APPEAR PLEASE!
IT'S LIKE THE STORY OF THE "MATCHSTICK GIRL"-

THE FLAME FROM THE CANDLE CAN HELP HIM REALIZE THAT AT THIS MOMENT, HE IS CONDUCTING SELF-HYPNOTIZING WITHOUT HIM KNOWING.
HE SHOULD WAKE UP BEFORE HE FREEZES TO DEATH.
MAYBE, THIS IS A GOOD TIME FOR ME TO LIFT UP THE HYPNOSIS.
THE CHARACTER WHICH INHERITS OKURA SOU'S PERSONALITY.
THE RESULT FROM SELF-HYPNOTIZING WILL REVEAL HIS ORIGINAL CHARACTER.

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カサカサ
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STUPID OLD MAN! YOU'RE STILL HERE!
HE HE HE!

HIS SOUL IS STILL UNDER MY HYPNOSIS!
EVEN THOUGH HIS DAD IS DEAD
BRING ME BACK!
BRING ME BACK!
PLEASE BRING ME BACK!
BRING ME BACK!
THESE WOODEN DOLLS REALLY HAVE HIS FATHER'S SOUL IN THEM!
BRING ME BACK!
BRING ME BACK!
BRING ME BACK!
BRING ME BACK!
BRING ME BACK!
BRING ME BACK!
BRING ME BACK!

THE END

TRANSLATED BY DANIEL LAU
EDITED BY NAEREID
DANIEL-LAU.COM

I was born poor. To a family of travelling puppeteers
Since I was a boy I remember moving from place to place.
Dad was the boss, and us kids helped him out.
Leaving my dad and three kids.
My mom had my little sister Natsumi, and then took off somewhere.
Still, we kept on moving like always.

HARUHIKO! TAKE THE HANDLE, HOLD IT TIGHT!
WE'LL NEVER MAKE OPENING NIGHT THE WAY YOU'RE GOING!
HOW MANY TIMES I GOTTA TELL YOU?
GOD DAMN IT, KID!
北脇人形
WAAAHHHH!
QUIT YER CRYIN'! YOUR BROTHER NEVER CRIED. DID YOU NOW, YUKIHIKO?
WAAAAH!

FROM NOW ON, HARUHIKO KITAWAKI WILL BE JOINING US IN FIFTH GRADE, CLASS THREE.
NOW LET'S SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW FRIEND.
IT'S NOT LONG, BUT HE'S PART OF OUR CLASS NOW. OK?
LITTLE HARUHIKO HERE'S PART OF A PUPPET THEATRE. HIM AND HIS FAMILY PERFORM ALL OVER JAPAN. HE CAN ONLY STAY WITH US A MONTH, THEN HE'LL BE MOVING ON
clap
clap
NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.

HEY THERE I'M KINUKO HIDAKA
HELLO ..
UM, HEY. MUST BE NICE, YOUR PUPPET THEATRE THING. LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.
DO YOU CONTROL THE PUPPETS TOO, HARUHIKO?
YEAH, SOME ...
BUT ... I DON'T LIKE IT.
NO! WHY NOT?
I SUCK AT IT.
MY BROTHER'S WAY BETTER.
KINUKO! IT'S TIME TO CLEAN, NOT TALK!
AH - YES!

HEY, HARUHIKO!
WHERE'S YOUR FAMILY LIVE?
IN A TRUCK. OUT BY THE PARK.
HUH? YOU GUYS LIVE IN A TRUCK?!
UM - CAN I COME OVER?
...OK.
YEAH. WE CAN'T AFFORD AN APARTMENT OR NOTHING. AND WE'D BE OUTTA THERE BEFORE TOO LONG ANYWAYS.

WOW, SO MANY PUPPETS!
KINDA CREEPY FOR A PUPPET
OH - HEY HARUHIKO? WHAT'S THIS?
HAHA! CUTE!
WOW.
MY BROTHER USES IT. IT'S HIS PUPPET.
OH, THAT'S JEAN PIERRE. A MAGICIAN
YOUR BROTHER'S GOT SOME STRANGE TASTE IN PUPPETS I GUESS?

RAHHH!
AH -
HEY, THERE'S MORE OVER HERE!
ガン!
バン!
AHHHH!
OH MY GOD! HARUHIKO - NEVER, EVER DO THAT AGAIN!
SORRY. WERE YOU SCARED?

As soon as the show was over, we'd always be off to the next town.
It didn't matter if I made friends or not.
北脇人形屋公演
ブロロロロ
北脇人形屋
WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY! I SWEAR!
HEY! HARUHIKO!

HAHA, LOOK AT HIM BLUSH.
WAS NOT! SHUT UP AND EAT ALREADY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT. I SAW YOU GETTING ALL MISTY-EYED.
WAS THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND BACK THERE?
... NO!
AIN'T NO WAY TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS.
ONE DAY WE'RE MOVING THE PUPPETS AROUND THE STAGE. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, WE'RE MOVING 'EM TO THE NEXT TOWN. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
I KNOW. THIS LIFE SUCKS.
STILL ... YEAH.
...

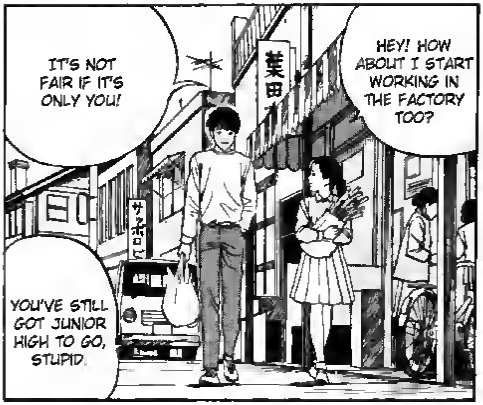
... I GUESS THAT'D SOLVE IT ALL.
IF DAD EVER GOT SICK ...
JUST KIDDING.
WE LIVE ON THE ROAD. BUT SOMETIMES YOU JUST WANT TO DROP EVERYTHING AND REST A WHILE, HUH.
...
BOYS! LET'S MOVE IT!
HEY DON'T BREATHE A WORD OF THIS TO HIM, ALL RIGHT?
And we had to settle down in some broke-down apartment somewhere.
Kidding or not, my brother got his wish.
It wasn't too long before my father collapsed.

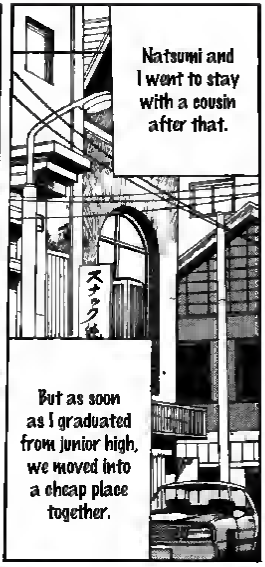
HEY, KID
...
GET ME A PUPPET FROM THE CLOSET . ANY ONE YOU LIKE
OK.
DON'T GET UP, DAD YOU GOTTA REST.
I'M FINE, YUKIHIKO HELP ME UP.
OOF.

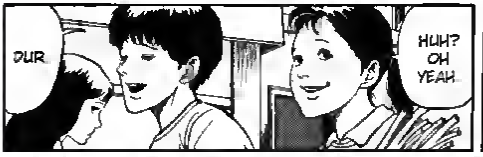
DID I EVER TELL YOU? THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.
A PUPPET EXPRESSES ITS HEART AND SOUL THROUGH ITS ACTIONS.
DON'T YOU WORRY. AS SOON AS I GET BETTER, WE'RE GETTING RIGHT BACK OUT THERE.
HAHA, NEVER GETS OLD.
...
AFTER ALL, THEY'LL DO WHATEVER WE TELL 'EM.
WE'RE BEARING EVERYTHING TO THE AUDIENCE. THE PUPPETS ARE JUST THE TOOLS WE USE TO DO IT.
AND WHOSE HEART AND SOUL IS THAT? OURS OF COURSE, THE PUPPETEERS
THEY LIVE, THEY DIE, THAT'S ALL DOWN TO US. WHAT'S INSIDE US.

HARUHIKO? WHAT'D YOU THINK BACK THERE?
'BOUT WHAT?
DAD'S LITTLE SPEECH.
HE SAID THAT WE CONTROL THE PUPPETS, THEY'LL DO WHATEVER WE SAY. THAT WHAT YOU THINK, TOO?
WHAT? YEAH, COURSE
I'VE BEEN AT THIS SINCE I CAN REMEMBER BUT I AIN'T NEVER THOUGHT I WAS CONTROLLING THE PUPPETS.
I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING IT'S THE OTHER WAY ROUND. THEY CONTROL US.
DAD'S THE ONE DOING EVERYTHING THEY WANT
HUH.
I'M GONNA HAVE TO DISAGREE

SORRY, MAN. THAT AIN'T GONNA BE ME. I'M NO PUPPET'S PUPPET.
THAT'S GOTTA BE IT. HOW ELSE COULD HE STAND TO LIVE LIKE THIS? HE'S NOT ALL THERE. THE PUPPETS ARE PULLING HIS STRINGS.
カシャ
カシャ
The day after that, my brother ran away.
OK.
YEAH! LET'S GO!
YOU KIDS'LL HELP ME OUT, RIGHT?
HEY, HARUHIKO? NATSUMI? WE'LL BE BACK ON THE ROAD, SOON, OK? SOON AS I GET BETTER.
And half a year later, he was gone.


IT'S NOT FAIR IF IT'S ONLY YOU!
HEY! HOW ABOUT I START WORKING IN THE FACTORY TOO?
YOU'VE STILL GOT JUNIOR HIGH TO GO, STUPID.


Natsumi and I went to stay with a cousin after that.
But as soon as I graduated from junior high, we moved into a cheap place together.


DUR.
HUH? OH YEAH.

UM, EXCUSE ME?

SORRY IF I'VE GOT THIS WRONG, BUT...
BY ANY CHANCE MIGHT YOU BE HARU-HIKO?

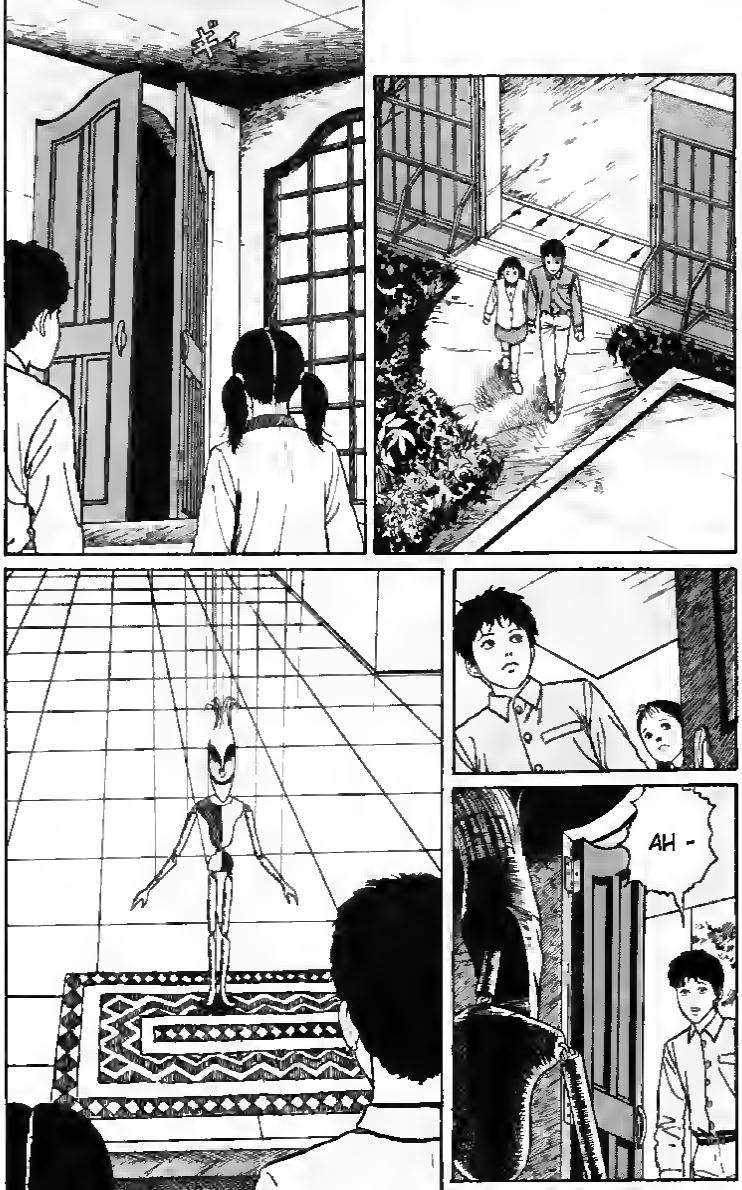
OH MY GOD, IT IS YOU! DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME? KINUKO HIDAKA! WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS FOR A MONTH BACK IN THE FIFTH GRADE!
... AND YOU ARE?
YES, THAT'S ME ...
Y'KNOW, I HAD A FEELING WE WOULD MEET AGAIN ...
WOW! SMALL WORLD, HUH?
I NEVER FORGOT ABOUT YOU.
From that day on, Kinuko Hidaka and I became pretty close.
HEY, I BET FATE BROUGHT US HERE TODAY!
OF COURSE! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
AH - OF COURSE!
I'M LOOKING FOR WORK!

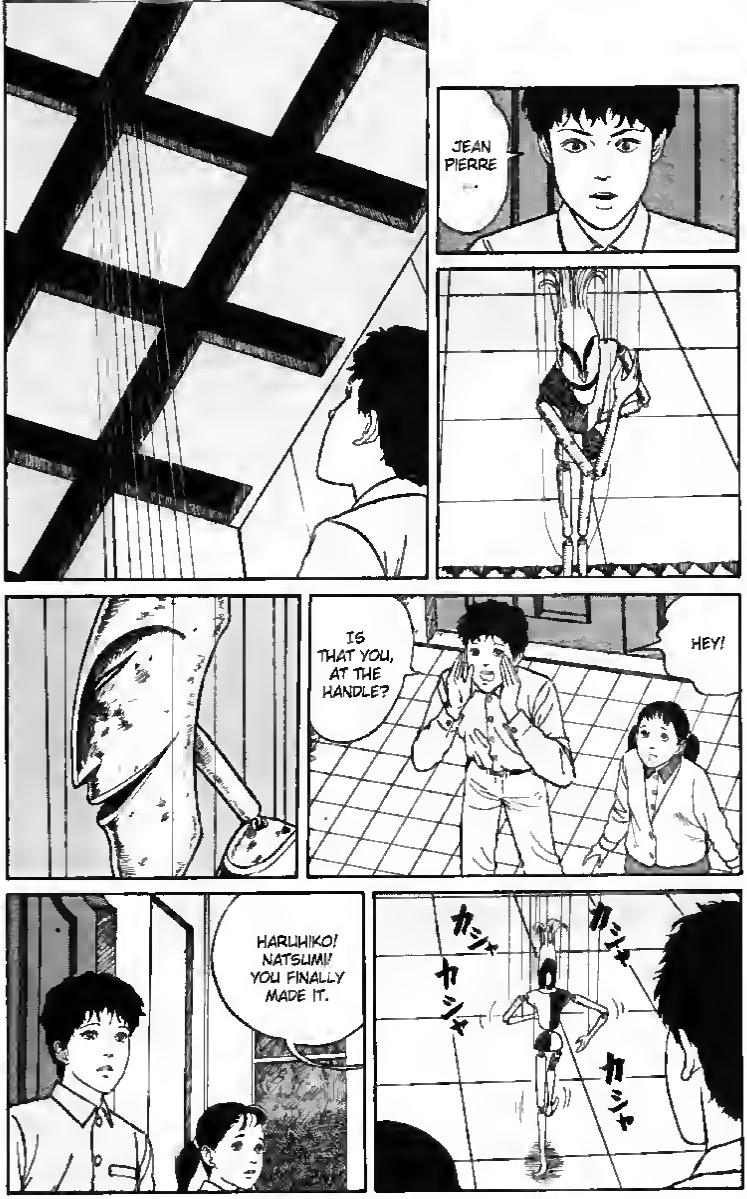
コンコン
HEY.
ガチャッ
HI-I! I BROUGHT STUFF FOR LUNCH.
HERE
AH, YOU'RE ALWAYS -
IT WAS IN YOUR LETTER BOX
FOR YOU
THANKS, WHO'S IT FROM -
IT'S A GUY'S NAME.
AH -

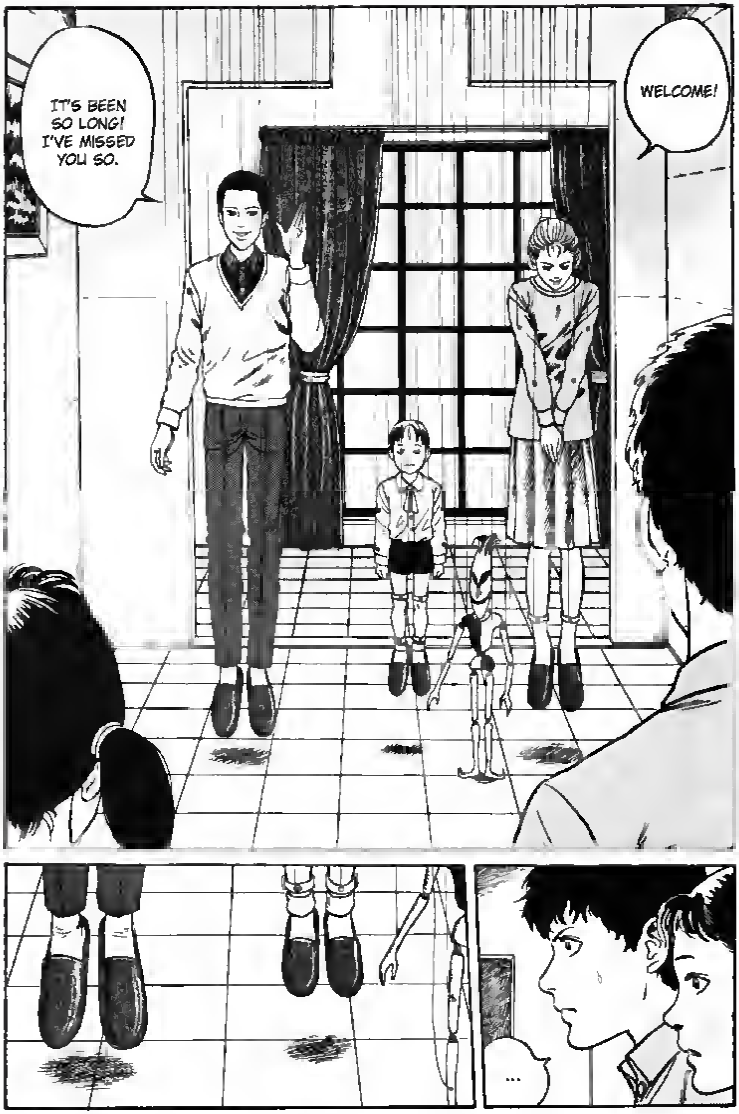
NO WAY!
FROM . . OUR BROTHER
WHAT?
WHO'S IT FROM?
HM?
WHAT'S HE UP TO? OPEN IT, OPEN IT!
ビリッ
O-OK!
. . .

フルサワ
SO HE'S BEEN LIVING IN THIS TOWN THE WHOLE TIME?
HE EVEN BUILT HIS OWN HOME.
IT'S NOT THAT FAR, IS IT? YUKIHIKO'S HOUSE

GUESS HE DID PRETTY WELL FOR HIMSELF THESE SEVEN YEARS.
WHO IS IT?
UM, IT'S HA-RUHIKO.
ガタン！ ガタガタ
DO COME IN. YOU'RE MOST WELCOME.
WE'RE HERE.


ギィ
AH -


JEAN PIERRE...
IS THAT YOU, AT THE HANDLE?
HEY!
HARUHIKO! NATSUMI! YOU FINALLY MADE IT.
カシャ
カシャ
カシャ
カシャ


IT'S BEEN SO LONG! I'VE MISSED YOU SO.
WELCOME!
...

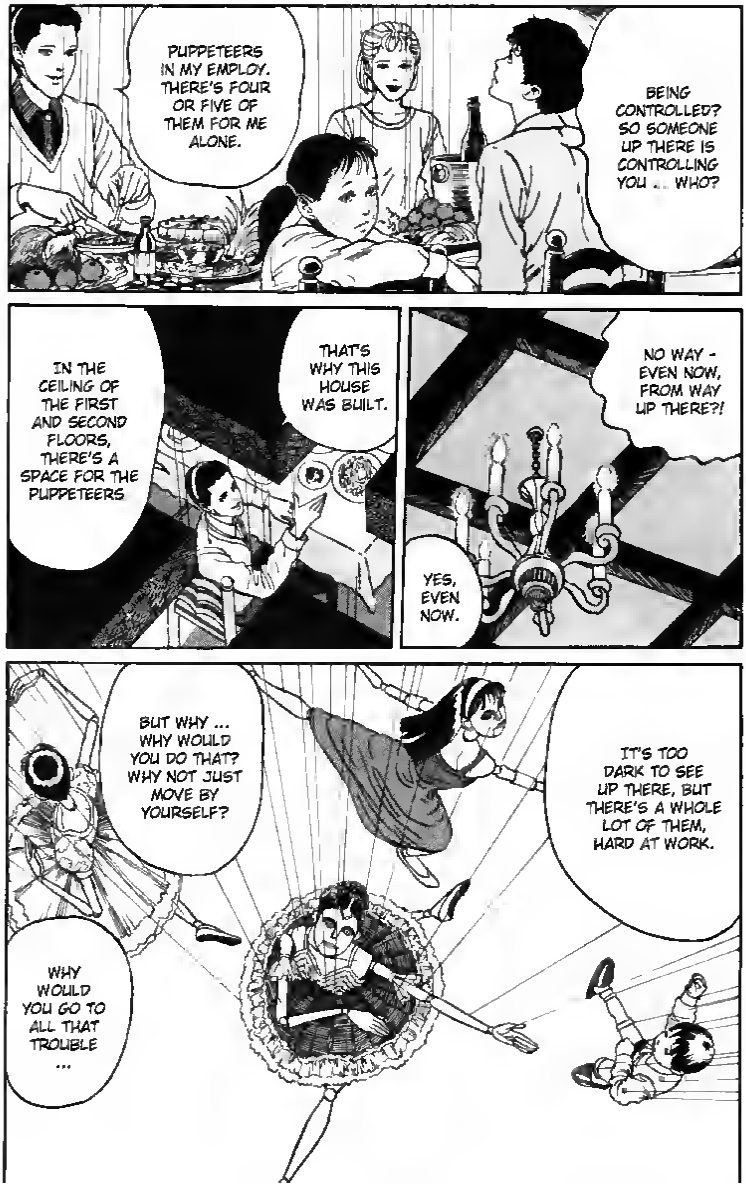
HERE'S MY SON, AYUO. HE'LL BE THREE THIS YEAR.
HAHA, HE'S SOUND ASLEEP RIGHT NOW.
THIS IS MY WIFE, SUMIRE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? COME ON IN!
SORRY WE COULDN'T SEND ANYONE TO PICK YOU UP. OUR STAFF ALL HAVE THEIR HANDS TIED.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
COME ON, YOU TWO!
...

FOR A WHILE I DID IMPRESSIONS OF FAMOUS PEOPLE, CAME INTO A BIT OF MONEY, AND AFTER THAT IT WAS ALL LUCK. THERE WERE TOUGH TIMES TOO, OF COURSE ...
WHEN I RAN AWAY, I HAD NOTHING ON ME BUT SPARE CHANGE AND JEAN PIERRE. HAHA!
BUT I OWE IT ALL TO JEAN PIERRE.
I MUST ADMIT I WAS WORRIED AT THE START
BUT YOU KNOW, LIFE'S JUST FULL OF SURPRISES.
PLUS I CAN RUN THE PLACE FROM WHERE I'M SITTING. I NEVER HAVE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE. HA!
IT WAS THROUGH HIS GOOD LUCK THAT I CAME BY THIS HUMBLE LITTLE COMPANY. I'M MY OWN BOSS IN MY TWENTIES.
PLEASE, DON'T HESITATE. EAT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

- ULP!
YOU THERE. MUSIC.
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.
HARUHIKO NATSUMI. HAVE YOURSELVES A GREAT TIME TONIGHT.
ジャン, ジャジャジャ ジャンジャン
ジャン ジャン ジャーン
サッ

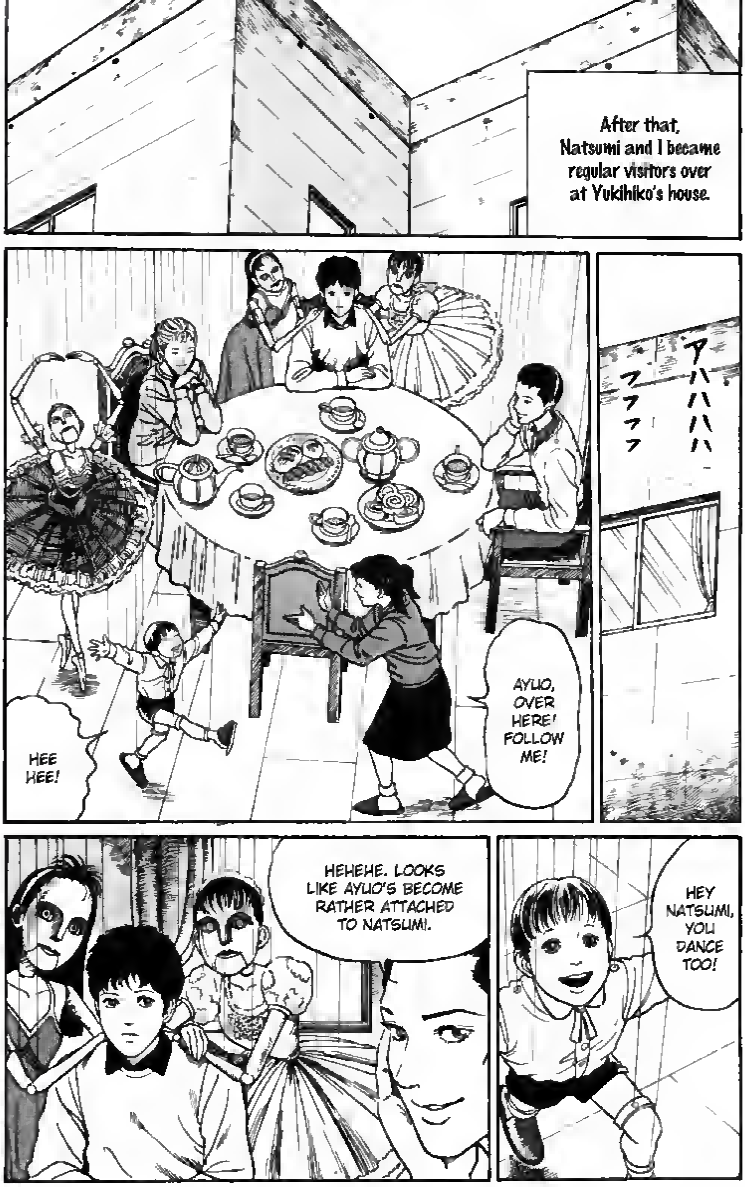
チロチロチロリン チロチロチロリン
VERY WELL DONE. WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
THEY'RE MY NEW LIFE-SIZED BALLERINA PUPPETS. HAD THEM MADE JUST FOR TODAY.
AH. IF IT'S NOT TCHAIKOVSKY, IT'S NOT BALLET.

AND STILL SLEEPING LIKE A BABY. HA!
OH HOW ADORABLE. EVEN AYUO'S BEGUN TO DANCE.
WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
HEY, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
HM! FINALLY HE GETS AROUND TO IT.
THAT'S RIGHT. MY FAMILY AND I ARE BEING CONTROLLED VIA PIANO WIRE
ALL DAY LONG.
YOU GUYS...
...ARE BEING CONTROLLED FROM UP IN THE CEILING, RIGHT?


PUPPETEERS IN MY EMPLOY. THERE'S FOUR OR FIVE OF THEM FOR ME ALONE.
BEING CONTROLLED? SO SOMEONE UP THERE IS CONTROLLING YOU ... WHO?
IN THE CEILING OF THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS, THERE'S A SPACE FOR THE PUPPETEERS
THAT'S WHY THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT.
NO WAY - EVEN NOW, FROM WAY UP THERE?!
YES, EVEN NOW.
BUT WHY ... WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT? WHY NOT JUST MOVE BY YOURSELF?
IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE UP THERE, BUT THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF THEM, HARD AT WORK.
WHY WOULD YOU GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE ...

DOESN'T MY EVERY MOVE SEEM NATURAL?
HM, HM. DEAR BROTHER, DO I SEEM EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT INCONVENIENCED?
AND WORST OF ALL - YOU CAN'T EVEN MOVE HOW YOU WANT!
OTHER THAN MY FINGERS, MY ENTIRE BODY IS COMPLETELY RELAXED. AND YET I MOVE EXACTLY AS I WISH TO.
THE PUPPETEERS MAY THINK THEY CONTROL THE PUPPET. NOT SO. IT IS THEY WHO ARE BEING CONTROLLED.
THE PUPPET HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE TRUE PUPPET MASTER.
DO YOU SEE NOW?

I FEEL LIKE I'VE JUST COME OUT OF A DREAM.
I STILL CAN'T QUITE BELIEVE IT!
WEREN'T THOSE BALLERINAS SO BEAUTIFUL!
AND I'VE NEVER EATEN LIKE THAT IN MY LIFE! IT MUSTA BEEN A DREAM.
.. THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
OOH, OOH! LET'S GO TO YUKIHIKO'S AGAIN NEXT SUNDAY!
HE TOLD US TO COME VISIT AGAIN, RIGHT? COME ON, COME ON!


After that, Natsumi and I became regular visitors over at Yukihiko's house.
アハハハハ
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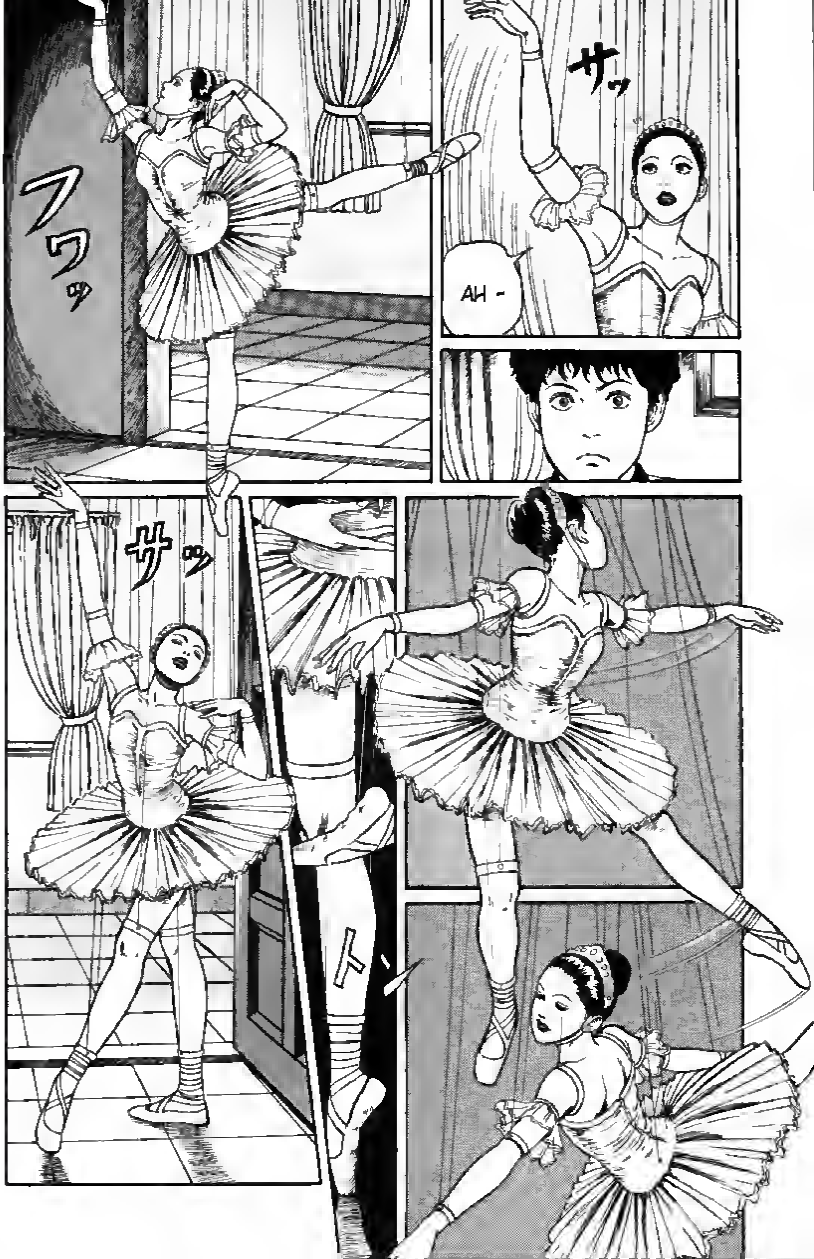
HEE HEE!
AYUO, OVER HERE! FOLLOW ME!
HEHEHE. LOOKS LIKE AYUO'S BECOME RATHER ATTACHED TO NATSUMI.
HEY NATSUMI, YOU DANCE TOO!

AND THE STARS OF OUR BALLET SEEM QUITE TAKEN WITH YOU, PAL.
BALLET?
HEY YUKIHIKO, I WANNA DO BALLET TOO!
NATSUMI! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
AH! WHAT A FINE IDEA!
PLEASE?
YEAH! I WANT TO BE JUST LIKE AYLIO AND THE BALLERINAS!

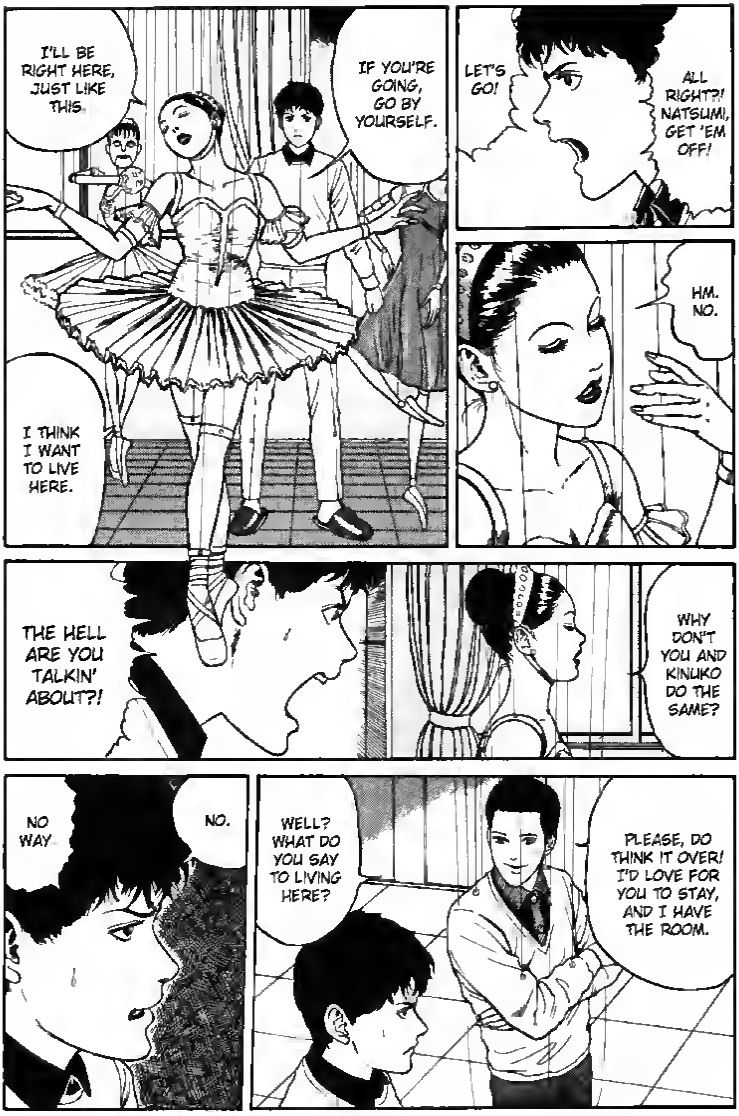
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU'RE FLOATING IN SPACE.
OH HARUHIKO, IF ONLY YOU KNEW HOW THIS FEELS.
AND I'M SURE I'VE PUPPETEERS TO SPARE.
OH COME ON, HARUHIKO. IT'S WHAT SHE WANTS!
HOW ABOUT YOU, HARUHIKO? WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY!
YEAH!
WELL NATSUMI, ARE YOU READY?
SUMIRE? TAKE NATSUMI AND GET HER READY, WILL YOU?
I'D LOVE TO.
WOULDN'T WANT TO WORK YOUR GUYS TOO HARD UP THERE.
YEAH, NO, I'M GONNA PASS.

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
DID YOU SAY THAT YOU GUYS WERE LIKE THIS ALL HOURS OF THE DAY?
BUT YOU DO DETACH YOURSELVES AND GO OUT ONCE IN A WHILE ... RIGHT?
HEY ...
AND I HAVEN'T NEEDED TO MOVE MY OWN BODY THE WHOLE TIME.
NO, I'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE I BUILT THE PLACE AND GOT MY TEAM TOGETHER AROUND TWO YEARS NOW.
EVEN ASTRONAUTS STUCK IN ZERO GRAVITY FOR A LONG TIME HAVE TO KEEP TRAINING THEIR MUSCLES.
BUT ISN'T THAT KIND OF ... DANGEROUS?
WE NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
HM!
WHAT IF ONE DAY YOU CAN'T EVEN STAND UP ANYMORE, THEN WHAT? YOUR PUPPETEERS AIN'T GONNA BE AROUND FOREVER!
IF YOU DON'T USE 'EM, THEY'LL ATROPHY!

LOOK - ISN'T SHE JUST GORGEOUS!
WE'RE READY!
OH, COME IN, COME IN!
WHAT HAS THIS LITTLE ANGEL DONE WITH NATSUMI?
BUT IT SEEMS YOU'RE STILL NOT USED TO IT YET.
TRY RELAXING YOUR ENTIRE BODY.
IT'LL BE OK. YOU'RE BEING SUPPORTED FROM WAY UP HIGH.
THAT'S RIGHT, JUST LET GO.
PUT YOUR FAITH IN THE PUPPETEERS.


フワッ
サッ
AH -
サッ
トン

NATSUMI!
HUH? WHY?!
GET THOSE STRINGS OFF! WE'RE GOING!
AND WITH TIME, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MOVE JUST THE WAY YOU WANT TO.
LOVELY! NATSUMI, JUST LIKE THAT YOU'RE A WORLD CLASS BALLERINA!
IT'S JUST WEIRD. AND ALL OF YOU SHOULD JUST STOP IT RIGHT NOW.
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T SEE THE FUN IN ALL OF ... THIS.
YOU SHOULD STAY LONGER, RELAX, ENJOY!
YES, I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND EITHER. SHE WAS HAVING A GREAT TIME.


I'LL BE RIGHT HERE, JUST LIKE THIS.
IF YOU'RE GOING, GO BY YOURSELF.
I THINK I WANT TO LIVE HERE.
LET'S GO!
ALL RIGHT?! NATSUMI, GET 'EM OFF!
HM. NO.
THE HELL ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?!
WHY DON'T YOU AND KINUKO DO THE SAME?
NO WAY
NO.
WELL? WHAT DO YOU SAY TO LIVING HERE?
PLEASE, DO THINK IT OVER! I'D LOVE FOR YOU TO STAY, AND I HAVE THE ROOM.

HEY ... HOW WAS YOUR BROTHER'S PLACE? YOU WENT OVER, RIGHT?
AND WHERE'S NATSUMI? DID SHE GO SOMEWHERE?
HARUHIKO?
WHAT'S WRONG? I'VE BARELY SEEN YOU LATELY.
... DID YOU FIND SOMEONE ELSE YOU LIKE?
DID YOU ...
AND WHOSE HOUSE WERE YOU AT LAST SATURDAY NIGHT?
HEY .. WHY WON'T YOU TALK TO ME?
WHY THEN? WHY ARE YOU IGNORING ME?
SHUT UP, YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG!
YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU! AND YOU TOLD ME YOU ONLY HAD EYES FOR ME, YOU ... YOU LIAR!
WHY CAN'T WE GO TO YOUR BROTHER'S HOUSE TOGETHER?!

I had to sidestep any mention of my brother. There was no way I was gonna let her meet him.
I'M JUST ... TIRED. TIRED FROM WORK.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. LOOK, I'M NOT IGNORING YOU. OK?
NATSUMI'S GOTTEN USED TO THE LIFE HERE ALREADY. SHE'S A NATURAL.
LOOK, HARU-HIKO.
アハハ
I'M A WORLD-CLASS BALLERINA AFTER ALL.
MM-HMM

THEY WANT TO TALK WITH YOU IN THE NEXT ROOM, HARUHIKO. BEST NOT REFUSE THEM, YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM ANGRY!
OH HO-HO! LOOK WHO'S POPULAR WITH THE BALLERINAS.
WELL? WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
... HE ASKED, WAITING FOR A BUNCH OF PUPPETS TO REPLY.
...
YOU KNOW, YOU GUYS LOOK PRETTY REAL..

YOU WANT ME TO GET MYSELF STRUNG UP? JUST LIKE A PUPPET.
AH, I GET IT.
WHAT.
YEAH, NO THANKS
I AIN'T NEVER GONNA BE ONE OF YOU.
ツンツン

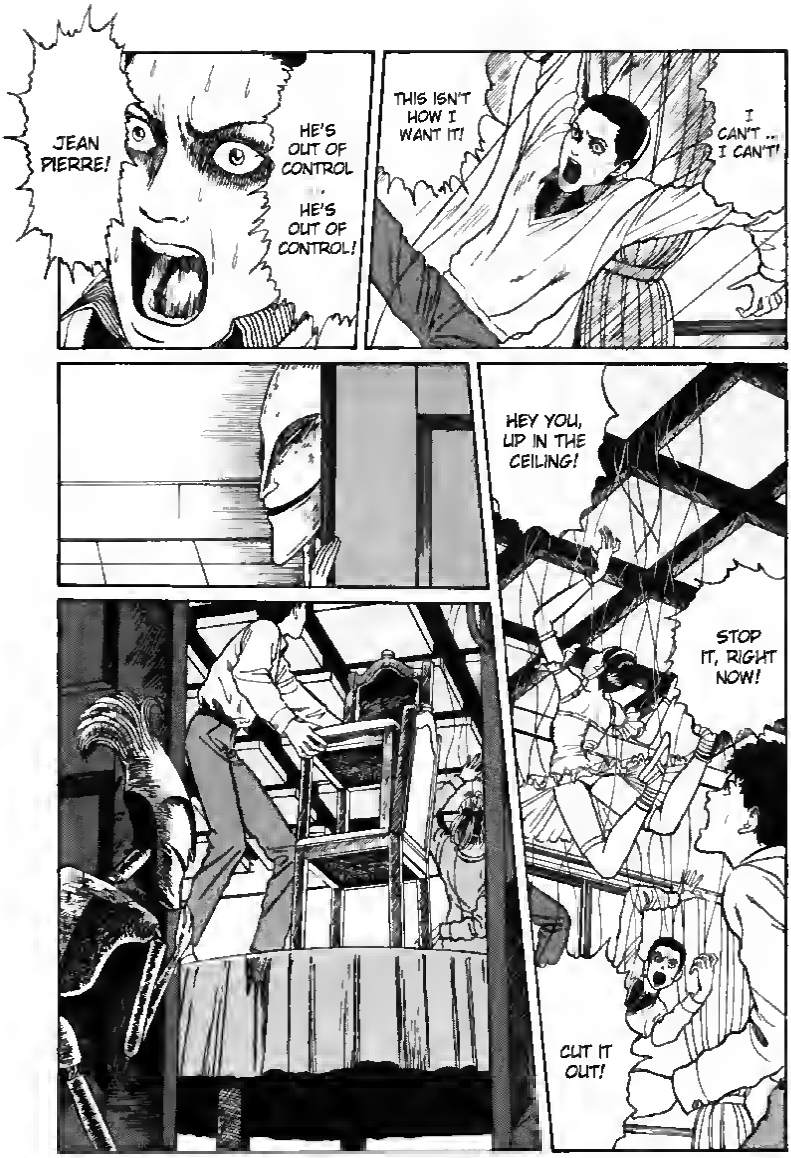
HE'S BEEN WITH ANOTHER GIRL THIS WHOLE TIME HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?!
KNEW IT
OHHH, HE'S GONNA GET IT!
HAH! THERE'S NO WAY HE'S GETTING AWAY WITH THIS!
SCARED ME ..
GEEZ.
AH -

I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE
THAT PUPPET
..
ガッシャ ガッシャ!
AH -
カッ!

ガシャン
バシッ
GET OFF ME!
ガッ
- GHH!
ぐいっ
THIS SOME KINDA JOKE TO HIM?!
ガチャ
ガガガ
CHRIST ... WHAT THE HELL IS YUKIHIKO DOING?!

AAAAAHH!
NOOOOO!

HEY! MAKE IT STOP!
WHAT THE HELL?!
HARUHIKO!
HELLLP!


JEAN PIERRE!
HE'S OUT OF CONTROL
HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
THIS ISN'T HOW I WANT IT!
I CAN'T .. I CAN'T!
HEY YOU, UP IN THE CEILING!
STOP IT, RIGHT NOW!
CUT IT OUT!

GAH -
NGH!

STOP CONTROLLING THEM!
HEY, GUYS! STOP!
I'll never forget their blank, empty stares.
...

AHHH!
ドン
WOAH -
ドサッ
ドン
HARUHIKO! HELP ME!
EEEEE!
AHHH! GGGGH!

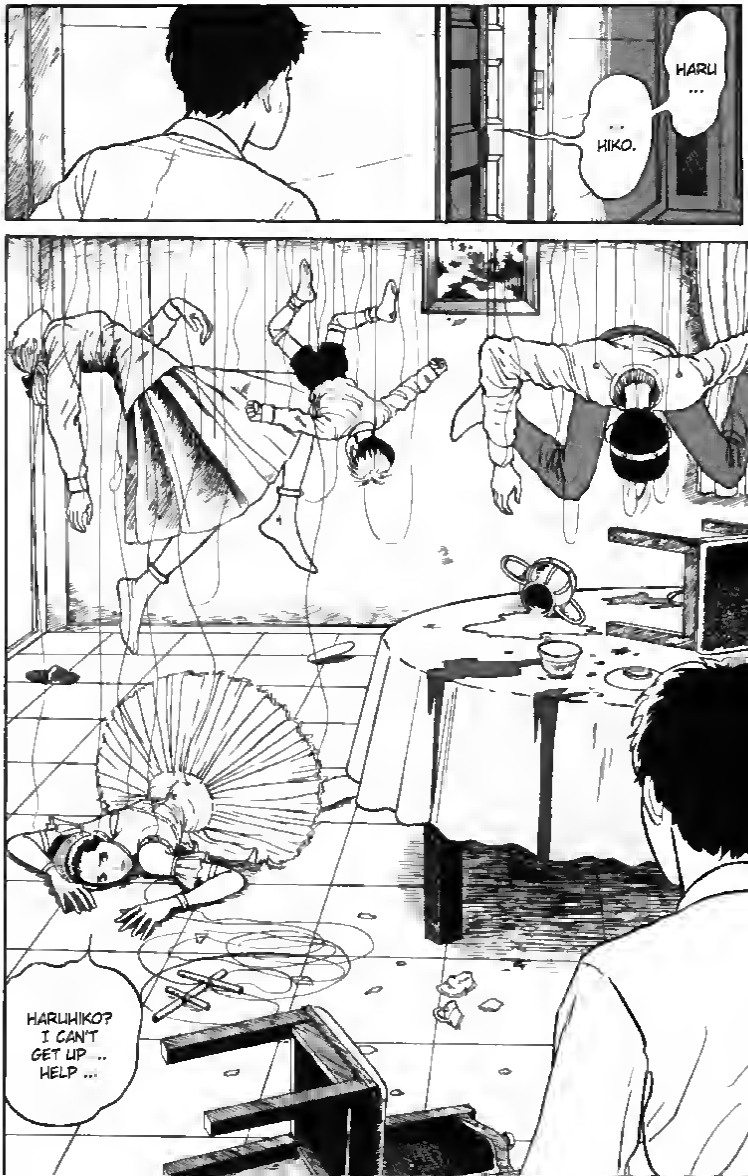
HELP US, PLEASE!
JEAN PIERRE!
JEAN PIERRE!
JEAN PIERRE!
JEAN PIERRE
サッ
カッーナ
カシャ
カシャ

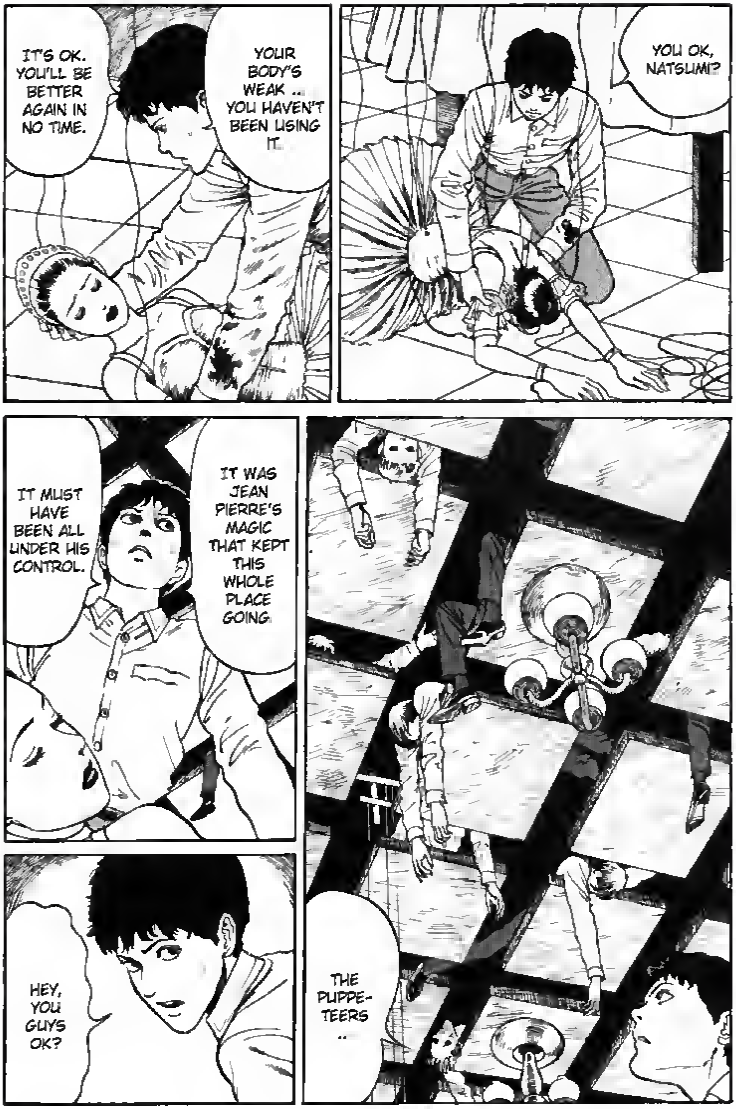
HEH
HEH
HEH
カシャ
ラン
カシャ
カシャ

KINU
KO.
カシャ
カシャ
WHY
...
カシャ
WHY DID SHE COME HERE?!
JEAN PIERRE, THIS WAS YOU?!
ハヒッ
HEH
HEH
HEH

WOAH -
- GRRR!
ぐりぐり
ガシャン
ガッ
ッシャッ
バッ

HHH, HAH ...
カシャ...
ダラ...
WH ... WHY.
HHH, HAH ...
WHY?!


HARU ...
... HIKO.
HARUHIKO? I CAN'T GET UP .. HELP ...


IT'S OK. YOU'LL BE BETTER AGAIN IN NO TIME.
YOUR BODY'S WEAK .. YOU HAVEN'T BEEN USING IT.
YOU OK, NATSUMI?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN ALL UNDER HIS CONTROL.
IT WAS JEAN PIERRE'S MAGIC THAT KEPT THIS WHOLE PLACE GOING.
HEY, YOU GUYS OK?
THE PUPPE-TEERS ..

AHH!
YUKI! -
YUKIHIKO ... YOU ALL RIGHT?
Two long years having their strings pulled, and they had become puppets.
My brother and his family were no longer human.
But I can't say for sure ... that they hadn't always been that way.
IT'S A ...
IT'S A PUPPET.